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**The impact of the laurel on Apolline divination: affecting the mind without the use of drugs.**

**1.** **The laurel and Apollo**

a) Εὑρετὴν δὲ καὶ τοῦτόν φασι γενέσθαι τοῦ φυτοῦ τῆς δάφνης, ἣν καὶ περιτιθέασι τούτῳ τῷ θεῷ μάλιστα πάντες ἄνθρωποι.

And it was Apollo, they say, who discovered the laurel, a garland of which all men place about the head of this god above all others. (Diodorus Siculus. *Library of History, Volume I: Books 1-2.34.*Translated by C. H. Oldfather, 1933)

1. Ποιηθῆναι δὲ τὸν ναὸν τῷ Ἀπόλλωνι τὸ ἀρχαιότατον δάφνης φασί.

They say that the most ancient temple of Apollo was made of laurel. (Pausanias. *Description of Greece, Volume IV: Books 8.22-10 (Arcadia, Boeotia, Phocis and Ozolian Locri).*Translated by W. H. S. Jones, 1935.)

**2. The laurel and divination**

Παρνησὸν νιφό εν τα περιστέφει ἐν νέα κύκλοις· ἀλλ᾿ἔμπης ἐρέω τι το μώτερον ἢ ἀπὸ δάφνης.

A word more clear should be spoken from the laurel branch.

(Callimachus, Lycophron, Aratus. *Hymns and Epigrams. Lycophron: Alexandra. Aratus: Phaenomena.*Translated by A. W. Mair, G. R. Mair, 1921)

**3. The laurel and the medical science**

29. (241 L.) Ἢν δὲ κατέχουσα τὴν γονὴν μὴ κυΐσκηται, ξυμβαίνει δὲ τοῦτο πλείστῃσι τοῦ στομάχου χανόντος τῆς μήτρης παρὰ φύσιν, τὰ ἐπιμήνια πλείω γίνεται τοῦ προσήκοντος καὶ ὑγρότερα, ὥστε τὸ ἀπὸ τῆς γυναικὸς μὴ ξυλλαμβάνεσθαι πρὸς τὴν τέκνωσιν, τήν τε τοῦ ἀνδρὸς γονὴν ἐπιοῦσαν διαφθείρεσθαι· γίνεται δὲ ταῦτα τοῦ τε σώματος καὶ τῶν μητρέων νοσεόντων. ἀλλὰ δεῖ ταύτῃ κατωτερικὰ διδόναι διαλείποντα, καὶ πυριᾶν ὅλον τὸ σῶμα, καὶ τὰς μήτρας ὄξει καὶ θαλάσσῃ, μύλους διαπύρους ἐμβάλλοντα· ἐμβάλλειν δὲ ἐς τὸ πυρίημα κυπαρίσσου πρίσματα, καὶ δάφνης φύλλα κόψας χλωρῆς, καὶ πολυκνήμου αὐτοῦ φύλλα·

*29.* If a woman retains the seed, but does not become pregnant—this happens in most cases when the orifice of her uterus gapes open unnaturally—her menses are passing in a greater amount than they should and too moist, so that her own contribution to gestation is not taken up, and the seed coming from her husband decomposes. These things occur when the woman’s body and uterus have some illness. Give such a woman intermittent purgatives, and apply to her whole body and her uterus vapor baths with vinegar and brine, into which you have immersed hot stones; add to this vapor bath sawdust of cypress wood, pounded leaves of green laurel, and leaves of field basil.(Hippocrates. *Generation. Nature of the Child. Diseases 4. Nature of Women and Barrenness.* Edited and translated by Paul Potter, Harvard University Press, 2012)

 (7) Ἢν γυνὴ μὴ κυΐσκηται, καθαρτήριον· ταύρου οὖρον ξυλλέξας ὅσον τρεῖς κοτύλας, ἔπειτα λαβὼν ἀρτεμισίην ποίην ἢ παρθένιον ἢ ἀδίαντον καὶ δάφνην χλωρὴν καὶ κέδρου πρίσματα, κόψας λεῖα ἐν ὅλμῳ, εἶτα ὀρύξας βόθρον, ἐγκαύσας ἄνθρακας, καὶ ἐπιθεὶς χύτραν, ἔγχεον τὸ οὖρον τοῦ ταύρου, καὶ ἔμβαλε τὰ ἐγκεκομμένα ἐν τῷ ὅλμῳ· ἔπειτα περιθεὶς δίφρον, ἐπίθες τῆς ἀρτεμισίης ποίης, ἢ ὕσσωπον, ἢ ὀρίγανον· εἶτα ἐπικαθίσας τὴν γυναῖκα, πυρίησον ἕως ἂν ἱδρώσῃ. ὅταν δὲ ἱδρώσῃ, λούσασθαι θερμῷ· ἐς δὲ τὸ λουτρὸν ἐμβαλεῖν τὴν ἀρτεμισίην καὶ δάφνην· εἶτα προσθετὸν αὐτῇ ποιῆσαι· ἢ ἀρτεμισίην ποίην ἢ βολβίον ἐν οἴνῳ λευκῷ τρίψας, εἰρίῳ ἐνελίξας, προστιθέσθω. ταῦτα ποιέειν ἐφ᾽ ἡμέρας τρεῖς· εἶτα κοιμάσθω παρὰ τῷ ἀνδρί.

(7) As cleaning agent, if a woman fails to become pregnant: collect three cotyles of bull’s urine; then take artemisia herb, feverfew, or maidenhair together with green laurel and cedar sawdust, and grind this fine in a mortar. Next dig out a pit, burn coals in it, and set a pot on it into which you pour the bull’s urine and the things ground in the mortar. Then place a stool over this, sprinkle on artemisia herb, hyssop, or marjoram, and next set the woman over this and continue the vapor bath until she sweats. Once she is sweating, bathe her in hot water, adding artemisia and laurel to the bath. Then make a suppository for her: grind either artemisia herb or a bulb in white wine, wrap it with a piece of wool, and have her apply it. Do this for three days: then have her sleep with her husband.(Hippocrates. *Generation. Nature of the Child. Diseases 4. Nature of Women and Barrenness.* Edited and translated by Paul Potter, Harvard University Press, 2012)

Ε͐πὴν δὲ αἱ ὑστέραι καταστῶσι, φάρμακον πῖσαι κάτω καὶ γάλα ὄνου, ἢν μὴ σπληνώδης ᾖ· ἔπειτα πυριῆσαι καὶ κατ αιονᾶν τὰς ὑστέρας τῷ σὺν τῇ δάφνῃ, καὶ προσθέναι | 280 προσθετὸν καθαρτήριον ὃ μὴ δήξεται·

When the uterus has settled down, give a purgative potion and ass’s milk, unless the patient has some disorder of her spleen. Then foment and moisten the uterus with a preparation of laurel, and apply a cleaning, no irritating suppository.(Hippocrates. *Generation. Nature of the Child. Diseases 4. Nature of Women and Barrenness.* Edited and translated by Paul Potter, Harvard University Press, 2012)

32. Στόμαχος μήτρης· ἀπὸ μὲν θυμιημάτων ξυμμεμυκὼς ἀναχάσκει, ἀπὸ δὲ τῶν μαλθακτηρίων μαλθάσσεται. θυμιῆν δὲ λωτοῦ φλοιόν, σπέρμα, δάφνης φύλλα χλωρὰ μᾶλλον κεκομμένα, λιβανωτόν, σμύρναν, ἀρτεμισίης καρπὸν ἢ φύλλα, καὶ ἄννησον κόψας ἢ στέαρ καὶ κηρὸν καὶ θεῖον καὶ κυπαρίσσου σπέρμα, πευκεδάνου ῥίζαν, μυρσίνης κόψας φύλλα χλωρά, κάστορος ὄρχιν, ὀνίδας ἄρσενος ὄνου, σκόροδα, στύρακα, ὑὸς στέαρ·

32. Mouth of the uterus: fumigations make it open up when it has been closed, emollient agents soften it. Fumigate it with lotus bark and seeds, green laurel leaves well pounded, frankincense, myrrh, seeds or leaves of wormwood, pounded anise or fat, wax, sulphur and seeds of cypress, root of sulphurwort, pounded green leaves of myrtle, castoreum, excrement of a male ass, garlic, storax, and lard.(Hippocrates. *Generation. Nature of the Child. Diseases 4. Nature of Women and Barrenness.* Edited and translated by Paul Potter, Harvard University Press, 2012)

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