

MEDICAL ETHICS "CUIUS REGION EIUS RELIGIO"

Prof. Mentor PETRELA PU-PH Paris

There are many aspects of every day live ineluctably related to our ethos that sometimes seem incomprehensible but they have the impact that is called "medical ethic". The evolution of medicine in Albania in the last century is related to the ethico-moral changes of the society. Medicine was considered a profession of the middle class from well educated polis society of XIX century as a heritage of the Ottoman Empire. The new Albanian independent state was well oriented and based on two pillars, the Abraham's religions and Greek-Roman civilization. The medical education was well oriented to Europe, America and medical ethics had the same basic rules from Hammurabi's Code, Asclepius, Avicenna, etc. One may call this period inspired by Spinoza's *De Affectibus* XXXV "Benevolentia est cupiditas benefaciendi ei, cuius nos miseret". The needs of a small country to adopt European laws including those regulating medical professions were prepared by the King Zog who was implicated personally to improve the quality of the health system. The local condition for the implementation of the medical ethics was difficult, well described by Faik Konitza in his famous "Doktor Gjilpëra" (Doctor Needle). Few medical Jews professor from University of Vienna have been invited by King Zog to improve the quality of medical services; their role on medical ethics is incontournable. In respect, during Nazi occupation they have been well protected by their colleagues and there has been no case of deportation. Say that it was a rapid medical progression in Albania at the end of WWII, Aristotle's dicit "one swallow does not make a spring". Communism was installed, new order, the medical profession was reconsidered,

Semashko's medical reform imposed, and a mixture of "old regime doctors" Western style with a fresh regime doctors "educated" in Russia and eastern countries was evident. Respectful to each other and between an Omerta was installed vis a vis the pressure communist dictatorship in one side and the liberalism that inspired the medical profession in the other. Political opinion among medical community was severely punished and the society began to distort the social position of the medical profession in a war classes for decades.

In mid '70, autarchy plus totalitarianism impregnated the society and medical profession. Private practice was abolished and the doctor was considered as a hermit. Instead of happiness, virtue of pleasure as servant, abolished religion, restricted family friends Morozov family behavior prouded, and community with "Big eyes, big ears" of Orwell's 1984 were the new phenomena of society. The medical profession, medical ethics suffered; orientation to "bare foot" doctors, a model inspired by Chinese cultural revolution, with as much as stupid populism behavior prevailed.

The real medical intelligentsia was restricted and their basic medical ethics remained esoteric in face of dogmatic meaningless inhuman ideology definitely even no communism-like. The last generation of Albanian medical profession educated in Western Europe naturally passed away with them to pave the way for the "new generation" educated in autarchy.

A fluctuant war classes criteria selection for the recruitment in the Faculty of Medicine followed and the University of Tirana became the example of the Robinson Crusoe's island in the middle of Europe.

Giraldus Cambrensis wrote "The sun has set; no night has followed". Fortunately after 90' Albania went in a post dictatorship free open society but communism needs time to be purged and as a matter of fact the evolution to morality in the western style will take time. The analysis of medical ethics in Albania will be decrypted based on the arguments of the above mentioned facts and the challenge that faces our profession in the future will be

discussed according to EU norms of medicine bioethics. Society will ruminate laws for the time being if politics will take the right decisions.

Luke was physician and as a disciple of Paul he is venerated as Saint Luke, patron of physicians and surgeons, but this day DNA software with its parent the computer produced the first bacteria. Many questions, not only ethics, need answer.