

IAH209 section 001
Final PROJECT

*Background information: It is 430 BC when this plague hit Athens, Athens is currently at war with Sparta because they had been attacking smaller neighboring city-states. Athens had power of many naval ports and were bullying and taking advantage to overthrow nearby empires. Sparta decided to start invading and attack Athens. During this time the plague is killing many of Athens' civilians and soldiers.

Eyes of the Athens Soldier

At war with our enemies of the near city state,
Sparta they were and we'd love to incinerate.
But a plague would come right our way,
Had the ability to kill off many in only seven to nine days.
From Ethiopia to Egypt it travelled,
To the port city of Piraeus it became a hassle.
The physicians could not figure out what it had been,
Eventually it got to them too, bringing their lives to an end.
People would stop caring, to aid those who were infected,
That's why most had died, simply from the lack of help for the effected.
Others saw that this was such a deathly thing,
Wouldn't even care for their close ones, isn't that something?
First signs of the plague were extreme headaches and inflammation in the eyes,
These symptoms basically meant that they were going to die.
If someone still lived after head pains for a couple of days,
The disease would still continue to spread along the whole body in a fast blaze.
Their stomachs would begin to feel sore, loose, and uneasy,
Making them vomit heavily since they'd feel so queasy.
Laws of proper burials in Athens had no longer existed,
For there were so many corpses that had already been listed.
Countless numbers of bodies would be buried wherever there was room,
Bodies piled on top of each other in the streets, Athens was so gloom.
The gods, crimes, or status did not matter for our ending fate,
The Plague of Athens is what would be the one to dictate.

NOTES

- How the Plague had made its way to Athens
 - First in that part of Ethiopia that lieth upon Egypt, and thence fell down into Egypt and Africa and into the greatest part of the territories of the king. (Greene)
 - It is believed to have entered Athens through Piraeus, the city's port and sole source of food and supplies. (Frater)
- Different effects and symptoms of what happened to those who had the plague:
 - They were taken first with an extreme ache in their heads, redness and inflammation of the eyes; and then inwardly, their throats and tongues grew presently bloody and their breath noisome and unsavory. (Greene)
 - Upon this followed a sneezing and hoarseness, and not long after the pain, together with a mighty cough, came down into the breast. And when once it was settled in the stomach, it caused vomit; and with great torment came up all manner of bilious purgation that physicians ever named. (Greene)
 - Their bodies outwardly to the touch were neither very hot nor pale but reddish, livid, and be flowered with little pimples and whelks, but so burned inwardly as not to endure any the lightest clothes or linen garment to be upon them nor anything but mere nakedness, but rather most willingly to have cast themselves into the cold water. (Greene)
 - Most of them either died of their inward burning in nine or seven days whilst they had yet strength, or, if they escaped that, then the disease falling down into their bellies and causing there great ulcerations and immoderate looseness, they died many of them afterwards through weakness. For the disease, which took first the head, began above and came down and passed through the whole body; and he that overcame the worst of it was yet marked with the loss of his extreme parts; for breaking out both at their privy members and at their fingers and toes, many with the loss of these escaped; there were also some that lost their eyes. (Greene)
- Example of how terrible and quick the citizens of Athens could be taken out by the plague:
 - For at first neither were the physicians able to cure it through ignorance of what it was but died fastest themselves, as being the men that most approached the sick, nor any other art of man availed whatsoever. (Greene)
 - So great a plague and mortality of men was never remembered to have happened in any place before. (Greene)
 - Within a few months, however, Pericles fell victim to a terrible plague that raged through the crowded city, killing a large part of its army as well as many civilians. (Editors of Encyclopedia Britannica)

- Athens was hit by a devastating plague in 430 BCE and Sparta even postponed her annual invasion to avoid it. (Editors of Encyclopedia Britannica)
- The death of Pericles from the plague. (Cartwright)
 - Killed those in charge of militias; not only ordinary citizens and soldiers.
- THESE ANIMALS DIDN'T WANT TO FEED ON THEM THEY KNEW SOMETHING WAS WRONG WITH THE BODIES ESPECIALL DOGS:
 - For all, both birds and beasts, that use to feed on human flesh, though many men lay abroad unburied, either came not at them or tasting perished. (Greene)
- TOWN STARTED TO JUST GIVE UP CAUSE SO MANY WERE DYING THE CITY WASN'T FUNCTIONING ANYMORE:
 - For having no houses but dwelling at that time of the year in stifling booths, the mortality was now without all form; and dying men lay tumbling one upon another in the streets, and men half-dead about every conduit through desire of water. (Greene)
 - The temples also where they dwelt in tents were all full of the dead that died within them. For oppressed with the violence of the calamity and not knowing what to do, men grew careless both of holy and profane things alike. And the laws which they formerly used touching funerals were all now broken, every one burying where he could find room. (Greene)
- THEY KNEW ALL WOULD PERISH IN THE END, DID NOT STAND A CHANCE AGAINST THE PLAGUE:
 - Neither the fear of the gods nor laws of men awed any man, not the former because they concluded it was alike to worship or not worship from seeing that alike they all perished, nor the latter because no man expected that lives would last till he received punishment of his crimes by judgment. But they thought there was now over their heads some far greater judgment decreed against them before which fell, they thought to enjoy some little part of their lives. (Greene)

Links

- <http://listverse.com/2009/01/18/top-10-worst-plagues-in-history/>
- <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/449362/Peloponnesian-War>
- http://www.ancient.eu.com/Peloponnesian_War/
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uFXJWkEvNgk>
- http://www.historyguide.org/ancient/athenian_plague.html

Works Cited

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Web. 19 Apr. 2014.

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YouTube, 5 Apr. 2013. Web. 20 Apr. 2014

The Editors of *Encyclopedia Britannica*. "Peloponnesian War (ancient Greek

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Frater, Jamie. "Top 10 Worst Plagues In History – Listverse." *Listverse*. 18 Jan. 2009.

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University of Chicago Press, 1989. Print.