

ARTICLE · CULTURA & SAÚDE

The Legend of the Physicians

A satire in the form of commandments on the sacrificed routine of the physician

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ABSTRACT

This humorous, satirical piece presents a brief 'legend' followed by a list of commandments that caricature the routine of the medical profession. According to the narrative, when God released medical knowledge to a select few, He grew angry at a betrayal and imposed penalties that exaggerate the sacrifices of the career: the absence of a personal and family life, the lack of days off and sleep, hurried meals, health problems such as gastritis and ulcers, premature aging, and an obsession with work. The ironic tone culminates in the observation that, despite all the suffering described, the physician inexplicably ends up loving it all. It is a short comic piece that, through exaggeration, comments on the dedication and renunciations tied to the practice of medicine.

KEYWORDS: *humor; physician; medical routine; satire; profession; sacrifice*

The legend of the physicians. Legend has it that when God released medical knowledge to mankind, He decreed that this knowledge would remain restricted to a small, select group. But within this small group, where everyone considered themselves demigods, there was one who would betray the divine decrees. God, angered by the betrayal, decided to enforce the following commandments: 1- You shall have no personal, family, or romantic life 2- You shall not see your child grow up 3- You shall have no holidays, weekends, or any other kind of time off 4- You shall have gastritis, if you are lucky. If you are like the rest, you shall have an ulcer 5- Haste shall be your only friend, and your main meals shall be snacks, pizzas, and takeout in a box 6- Your hair shall turn white before its

time, that is, if you have any hair left 7- Your mental sanity shall be put in check before you complete 5 years of work 8- Sleeping shall be considered time off, therefore you shall not sleep 9- Work shall be your favorite subject, perhaps the only one 10- The coffee machine shall be your best colleague at work, yet caffeine shall no longer have any effect on you 11- Happy hours shall be excellent opportunities to have some kind of contact with other people as crazy as you 12- You shall dream about patients, and not rarely, you shall solve work problems during that time of sleep 13- You shall wear dark circles under your eyes like a war trophy 14- And worst of all... Inexplicably, you shall love every bit of it!