

Review on physician

The physician was a film which is directed by Philip Stölzl. It is about an 11th century English barber's assistant who, upon hearing that real medicine is being practiced and taught in the Islamic east, in those days and sets out to study there.

In pre-Norman England illnesses are referred to as 'the sight sickness' or the 'the side sickness'. The workings of the human body were not understood. There were no doctors or surgeons, none outside of the royal courts, the illnesses were only cured by healers called barbers.

Young Rob loses his mother to illness and takes up with the travelling barber who failed to save her. The barber is all about sales pitches, tooth pulling and cauterized amputations.

But after several years on the road with this barber Rob falls into a community of Jews who are able to treat the Barber's cataract. He learns that medicine is only truly taught by the great Ibn Sina in far off Persia. Christians aren't allowed in his school. Rob changed his religion and sets off Persia and studied under Ibn Sina who is the greatest healer in the world.

In a time of plague, short lifespans and incessant war, Sina taught that 'we do not treat disease. We can treat the people who suffer from disease'.

The film has big timely themes, health care as a human right, religious fanaticism facing off the science.

Growing up fast, Rob gleans what he can from barber's methods, dodging testy townspeople and distrustful monks at every stop along their route.

Rob is an over-eager student who dissects the corpse of a Zoroastrian who has died of appendicitis. Eventually his newfound knowledge helps to treat the Shah for a similar affliction.

When we come into the medical ethics in this film we see Rob and Ibn Sina dedicate their whole lives towards the welfare of the patients and also they practice all the basic principles of medical ethics: the autonomy, beneficence, non-maleficence and justice properly.

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