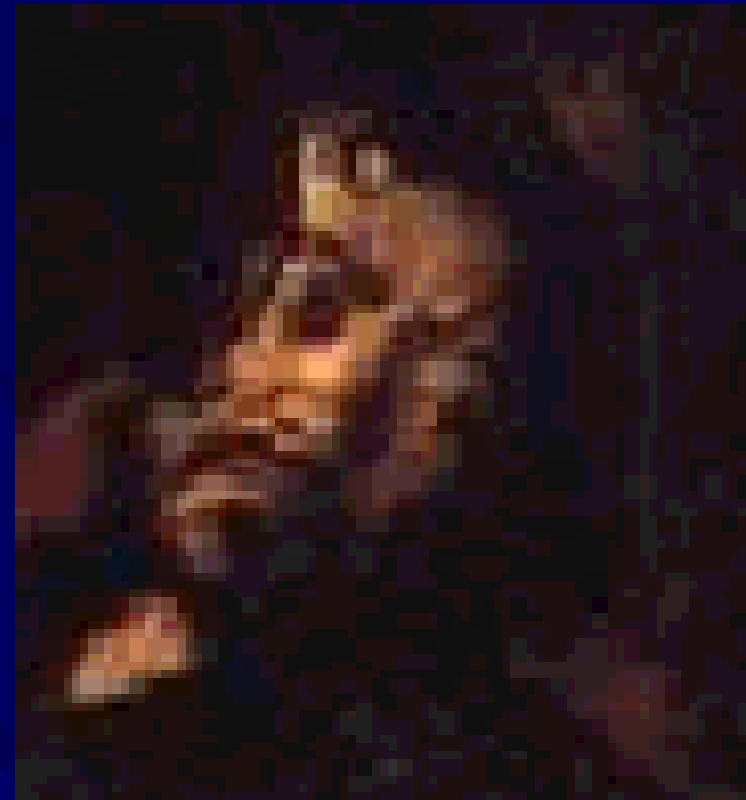


The need for amelioration of severely disabled patients suffering from untreatable CNS disorders and TBI in the end stage

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The philosophy of the treatment of patients
suffered from chronic neurological diseases is
the amelioration of the quality of life

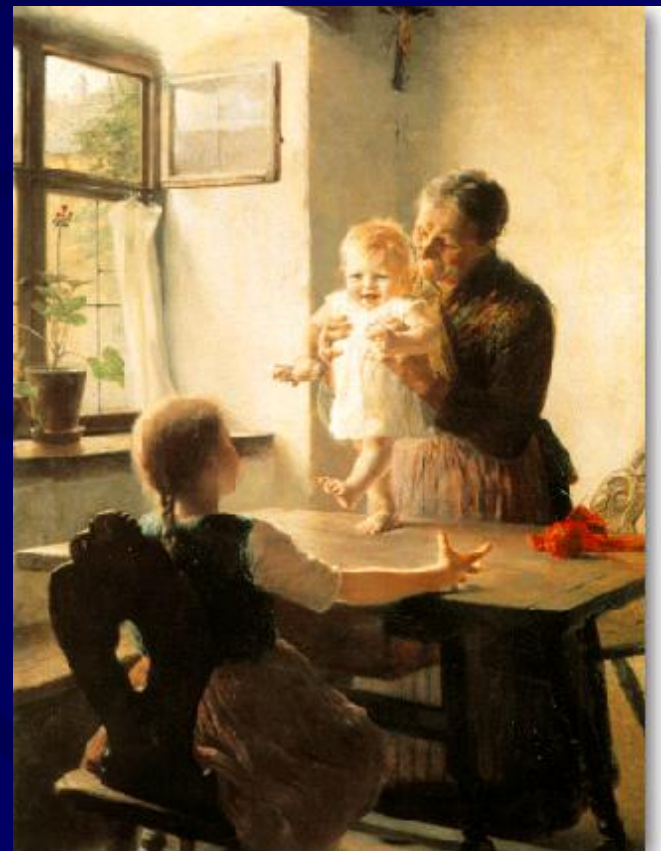
...even life for evermore.

Ps.133,3



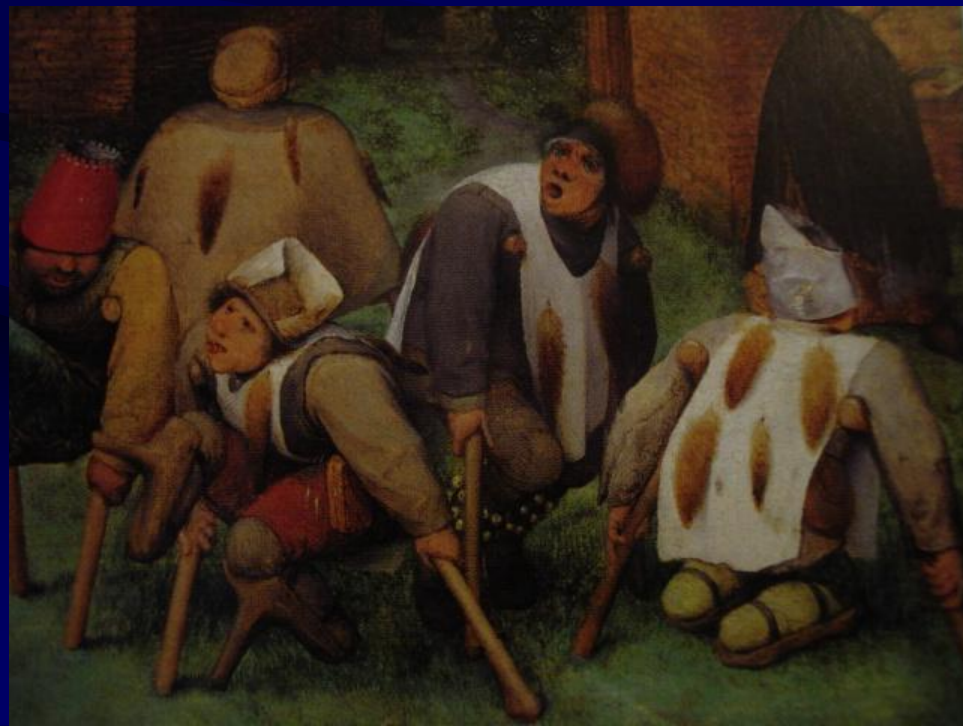
The quality of life of a human being is based on the following parameters

- The physical condition
- The psychological
- The spiritual
- The cultural
- The socioeconomic

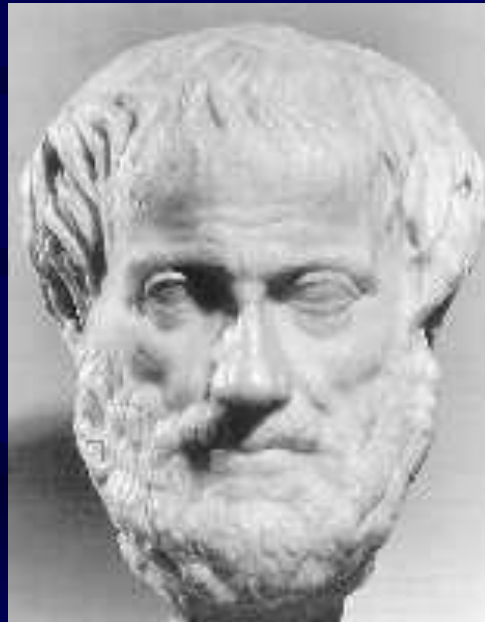


The human person even in untreatable CNS diseases
in the end stage is truly physical, emotional and
spiritual.

The respect for the dignity of the patients and for
their emotional and spiritual expectations may be
beneficial in enhancing their well-being



From the philosophical point of view



The meaning of life from the philosophical point of view

- Life is the central factor of the human existence
- Life has physical, spiritual and metaphysical dimensions
- Life is a gift of God to us, which we may commit to God
- Life is a gift, which we can offer to our fellow human beings every day.
- *I set before you the way of life and the way of death*



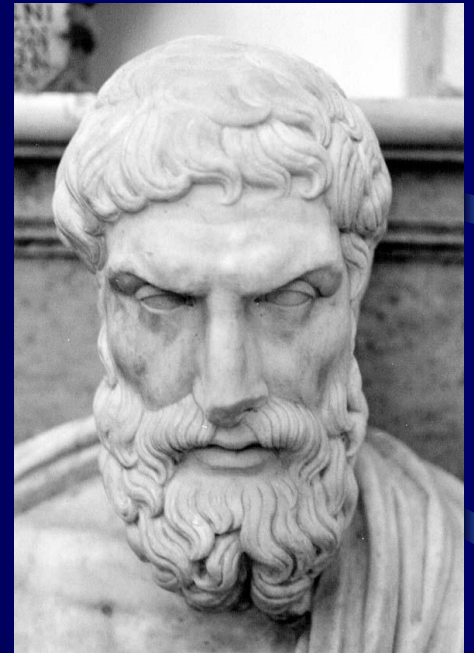
Heraclitus (530 B.C-)

- He also mentioned that the interior harmony of the soul is much more important than the expressed phenomena.
- Heraclitus believed that everything is changing at every instant of time. He thought the appearance of stillness as a balance of opposing.

(Heraclitus: On the universe. English transl. by WHS Jones. London W. Heinemann, Cambridge MA Harvard University Press, 1967)

The aim of life is the
pleasure of the mind
and the absence of
psychological pain.

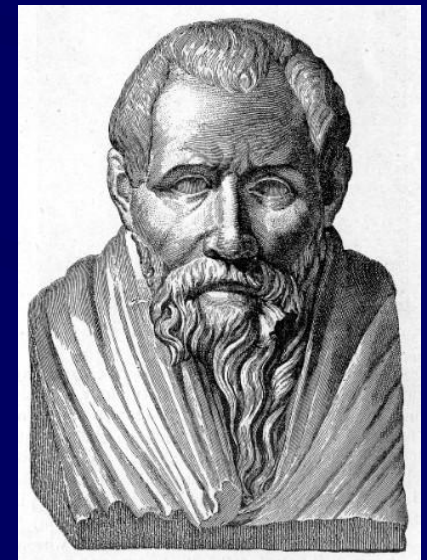
Epicurus (341-270 B.C).



Plotinus (205-270 B.C)

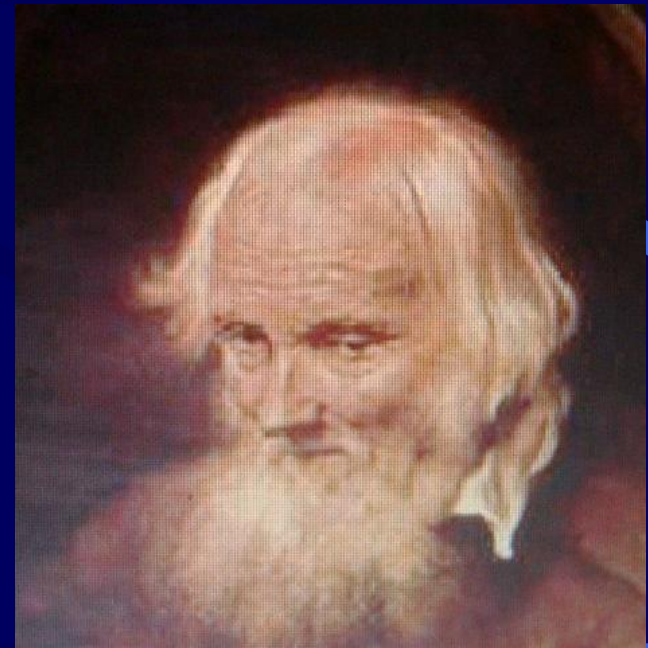
The meaning of the life is a continuous effort for spiritual elevation.

The human being must always cultivate the virtues and the worths. Only the spiritual or celestial life may offer the serenity or the apathy (απάθειαν) of the soul.

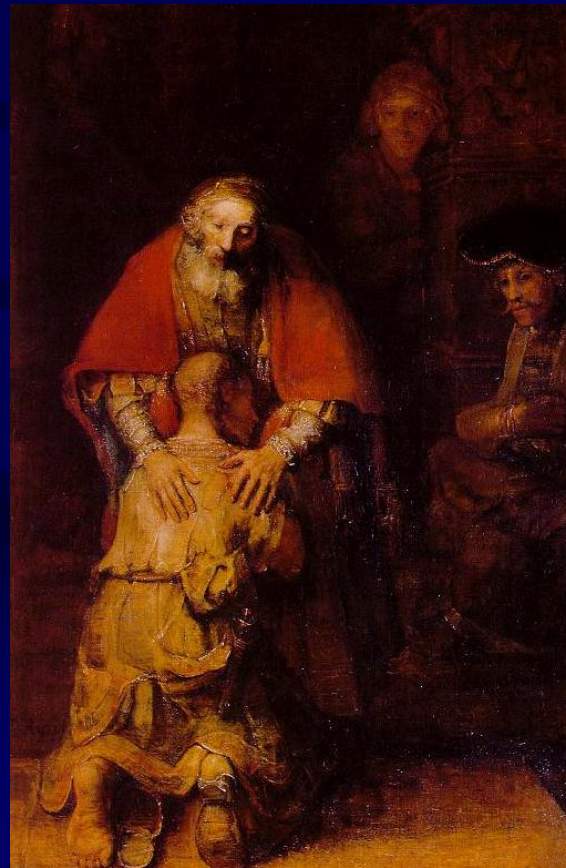


What is healing?

- Healing is more than physical health and psychological harmony
- Healing is a spiritual well being with harmonious metaphysical perspectives and expectations.



According to the moral values the person must participate to the suffering and pain of every human being and the most personal feeling is the most universal



Some moral and spiritual values we need to respect in approaching patients suffered from untreatable CNS diseases

- The sacred character of human life
- The love of God as the origin and basis of every human relationship
- The call of human being to holiness



From the scientific point of view



The scientific aspect for the amelioration of the quality of life in chronic and untreated neurological disorders

- The importance of basical research in the fields of genetics, molecular biology, neuroimmunology, neurochemistry, histochemistry, histopathology, electron microscopy, neuropharmacology, neurosurgery
- The importance of education on the special field of the untreatable chronic neurological diseases in the faculty of medicine, pharmacology, philosophy, theology

Psychological phenomena in chronic untreatable neurological diseases

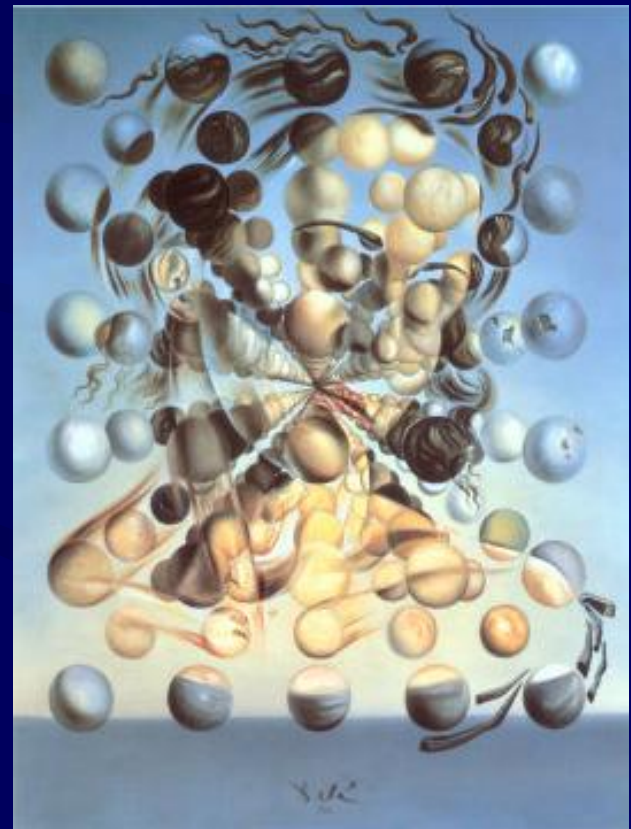


Loss of expectations

- Loss of expectations is the most serious mode of imprisonment in time



An existence would
be unable to find
itself, if moment
by moment it
crumbles into
nothingness.



Loss of cognitive functions

- Loss of cognition is the most serious type of existential imprisonment



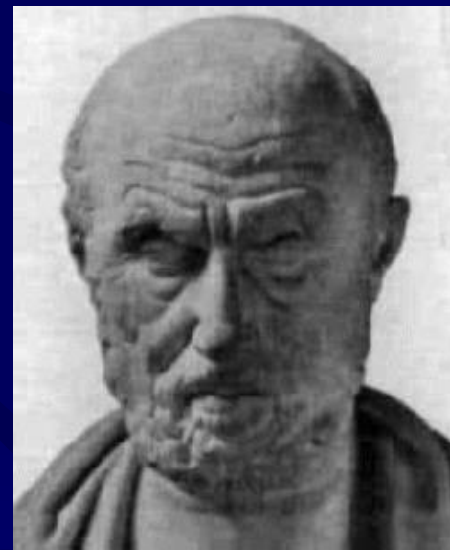
Loss of self-control



Some moral principles in treating the patient suffered from untreatable CNS diseases and TBI in the end stage

- Acting always for the good of the patient
- The benefits that results from the treatment should be proportionally greater than the negative consequences
- The intention of the treatment is to ameliorate his/her condition and to reduce as much as possible his mental and physical suffering.

primum non nocere



Principles and qualities of doctors and care-givers

- Knowledge of the problem from the scientific point of view
- Devotion
- Compassion
- Charity
- Spirit of sacrifice



- The doctor in addition to his scientific background must have the love to Lord and the love to human being as main motivation of his beneficial contribution to the patients.
- The doctor has to respect human life at any stage and state and he must also give to the patient spiritual strength through the lifting of his personal cross.



The doctor should devote himself to the holy task that has been given to him – that of caring for the patients who have been entrusted to him.

The doctor who lives within the realm of “the sacred” is one who lives a life of holiness within the grace of Christ .

He continually endeavours to transcend the tangible and to participate in the visible and invisible blessings of God.

- In order to care for the patients, it is necessary that the doctor first secures steadfast humility of heart.
- In doing this, the doctor has to bear the perfection of love in his soul.

- The doctor should not limit spirituality to a singular idealized scientific approach or methodology, neglecting the essential spiritual expressions of continual prayer, humility and denial of his worldly desires, expressions that allow him to participate in God's philanthropic grace.
- The doctor should ascend in his heart (Psalm 83:6).

Sociomedical aspect

- Foundations for sociomedical support of patients suffered from chronic untreatable neurological diseases
- Centers for special education on the chronic and untreatable neurological diseases including TBI in the end stage
- Centers for psychological support for relatives and care-givers

Case management in Greece



The experience of the Greek society for the amelioration of the quality of life in patients suffered from chronic neurological diseases

- Foundation of small hospitals

In Thessaloniki (Zoodochos Pigi) (85 patients)

In Florina (Agioid Anargyroi) (80 patients)

In Veria (Agios Lukas) (40 patients)

Patients

- Alzheimer's disease
- Mixed dementia
- Vascular dementia
- Mediterranean Dementia
- Lewy body disease
- Parkinson plus diseases
- ALS
- TBI

Personnel of volunteers

- 35 physicians (15 neurologists)
- 10 psychologists
- 5 logotherapists
- 30 nursing personel
- 20 teachers
- 7 physical therapists
- 5 musical therapists
- 5 secretaries
- 5 administrators



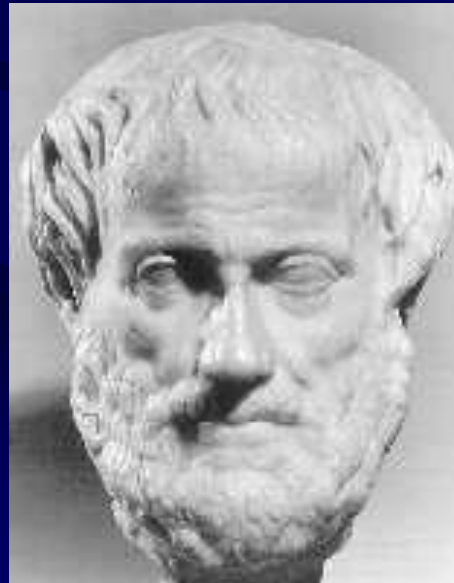
Treatment

- Pharmacotherapy
- Work therapy
(occupational therapy)
- Education
- Arts
- Musical therapy
- Physical therapy
- Athletics
- Psychotherapy



“Happiness is activity”

Aristotle



What is the meaning of treatment in untreatable chronic neurological diseases

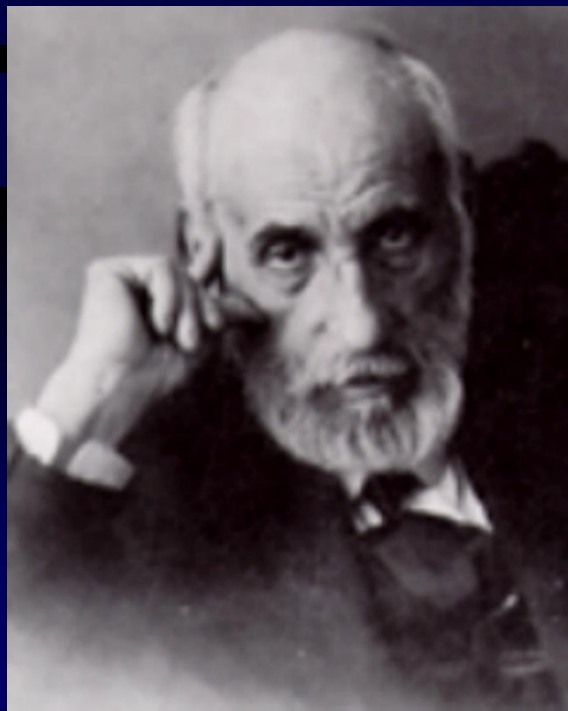
- To convert the absence into presence



- To convert the darkness into light



*“ Toda obra grande es el fruto de la
paciencia y de la perseverancia, combinada
con una atencion orientarla tenazmente,
durante meses y años,
hacia un objeto particular”*



Santiago Ramon y Cajal