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Ritual Healing:
 Magic, Ritual and Medical Therapy
 from Antiquity until the Early Modern Period

Edited by
 Ildikó Csepregi and Charles Burnett

By placing the magical, medical and religious healing traditions together, this volume invites the reader to reconsider our own ideas about healing traditions. It offers a broad comparative analysis of healing practices and the transmission of traditions related to medical and magical knowledge. Its chronological and geographical range spans from ancient Mesopotamia, through the Old Testament and Qumran, Classical Greece and the Imperial period and Late Antiquity, to Byzantium and well into the High Middle Ages of Western Europe. The subjects embrace Mesopotamian, Ugaritic, Jewish, Graeco-Roman, Egyptian and Christian material, and address topics such as the relationship between learned medicine and ritual healing, the importance of the narrative in healing stories and the dialogue between the institutionalised and the liminal. They draw on a variety of primary sources: archaeological finds, artworks, literary and religious texts, medical handbooks, accounts of miracles, and ecclesiastical documents. This collection should be of interest to scholars working on a wide range of themes in ancient, medieval and early modern history.

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