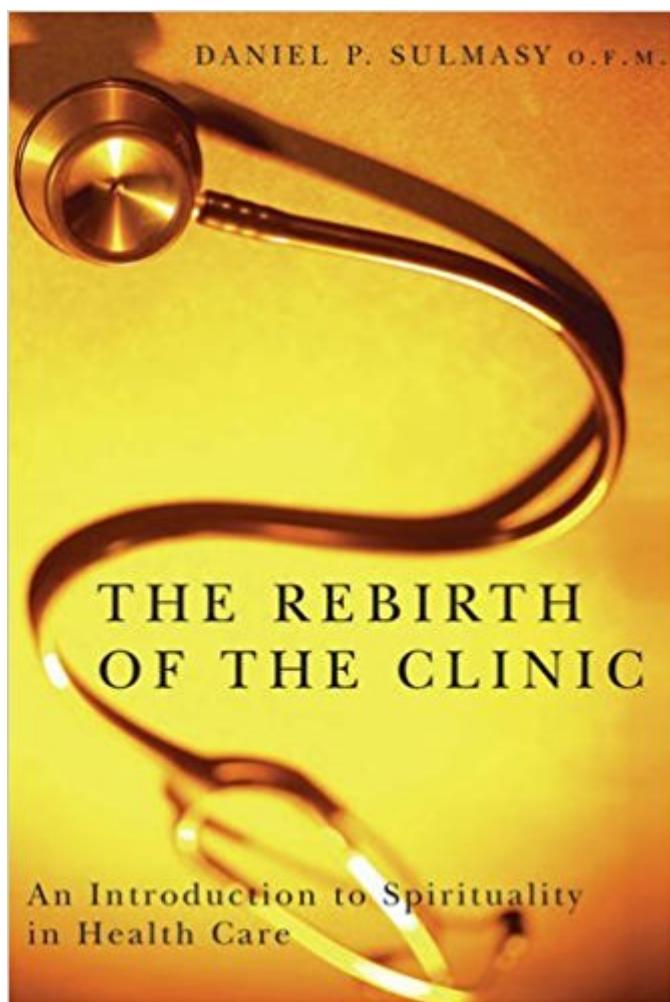


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The Rebirth Of The Clinic: An Introduction To Spirituality In Health Care



Synopsis

The Rebirth of the Clinic begins with a bold assertion: the doctor-patient relationship is sick. Fortunately, as this engrossing book demonstrates, the damage is not irreparable. Today, patients voice their desires to be seen not just as bodies, but as whole people. Though not willing to give up scientific progress and all it has to offer, they sense the need for more. Patients want a form of medicine that can heal them in body and soul. This movement is reflected in medical school curricula, in which courses in spirituality and health care are taught alongside anatomy and physiology. But how can health care workers translate these concepts into practice? How can they strike an appropriate balance, integrating and affirming spirituality without abandoning centuries of science or unwittingly adopting pseudoscience? Physician and philosopher Daniel Sulmasy is uniquely qualified to guide readers through this terrain. At the outset of this accessible, engaging volume, he explores the nature of illness and healing, focusing on health care's rich history as a spiritual practice and on the human dignity of the patient. Combining sound theological reflection with doses of healthy skepticism, he goes on to describe empirical research on the effects of spirituality on health, including scientific studies of the healing power of prayer, emphasizing that there are reasons beyond even promising research data to attend to the souls of patients. Finally, Sulmasy devotes special attention and compassion to the care of people at the end of life, incorporating the stories of several of his patients. Throughout, the author never strays from the theme that, for physicians, attending to the spiritual needs of patients should not be a moral option, but a moral obligation. This book is an essential resource for scholars and students of medicine and medical ethics and especially medical students and health care professionals.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"The Rebirth of the Clinic is a highly worthwhile collection . . . Sulmasy's book is an eloquent call for medical practice as focused on relationships as one disease, with whole lives as much as isolated symptoms. It is a passionate call to embrace religion and spirituality as more than means to therapeutic ends. . . . This book is vital reading for anyone interested in spirituality, health care, and the continuing presence of the sacred in the midst of the clinic. Sulmasy's work may not transform the American health care system, but it will inspire readers to think carefully about these issues."—American Journal of Bioethics"An insightful resource, obviously the product of intensive study, rigorous analysis, personal experience, and prayerful reflection. . . . There is no question that any health care professional would benefit greatly from reading *The Rebirth of the Clinic*."—Health Progress

"Much of today's disquiet with medicine's triumphs is the gap they leave between curing disease and healing persons. In this incisive, scientifically and spiritually sound analysis, Sulmasy examines the meanings, values, and foundations of the current rubric of spirituality and health as well as its educational and practical implications. Recommended for all who still hope for a rational medicine of the person as well as of the disease."—Edmund D. Pellegrino, MD, Chair, President's Council on Bioethics, 2005-2009, and professor emeritus of medicine and medical ethics, Center for Clinical Bioethics, Georgetown University Medical Center"This is a collection of heartfelt, insightful, avowedly confessional essays by a respected physician-ethicist who is a powerful spokesperson both for Roman Catholic views of health and medicine and, more generally, for the necessity of including a consideration of spirituality in clinician/patient interactions."—Margaret Mohrmann, MD, associate professor of pediatrics and religious studies, University of Virginia"Dr. Sulmasy builds a scholarly foundation for spirituality as the essential element for good healthcare practice. Weaving historically derived insights with scholarly investigation and critical thought, Dr. Sulmasy convincingly establishes the case that all healthcare professionals have the moral obligation to attend to the human spirit in the healing encounter. His text is the resource healthcare professionals can use to reclaim the heart and humanity of medicine."—Christina M.

Insightful read for anyone in the health care profession. As a medical student it gave me great guidance in how as a physician we can shape our thinking to become even better providers for our patients.

Every doctor, minister and chaplain should read this book. It takes medicine back to the human

compassionate level. I bought a copy for my son who is a doctor and he loves it. We must not forget in this age of technology that we are treating people not the insurance company, not our egos, and not our greed.

Daniel Sulmasy is brilliant and caring and it shows in all his work.

This book is a classic and it offers some wonderful insights.

I am 100 percent satisfied. Thanks.

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