



## METADATA

**Title:** History of mental disorders in classical antiquity

**Other Titles:** Mania and melancholia

**Language:** Greek

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**ISBN:** 978-618-228-293-9

**Subject:** MEDICINE AND HEALTH SCIENCES, LIFE SCIENCES, BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES, HUMANITIES AND ARTS, LAW AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

**Keywords:** Mental disorders / Mania / Melancholia / Greco-Roman antiquity / Hippocratic corpus

**Bibliographic Reference:** Kazantzidis, G. (2025). History of mental disorders in classical antiquity [Undergraduate textbook]. Kallipos, Open Academic Editions. <http://dx.doi.org/10.57713/kallipos-1044>

### Abstract

This book attempts to map the history of mania and melancholia in the medical thought of Greco-Roman antiquity through the selection, translation and extensive commentary of a number of texts dating from the 5th century BC to the 5th century AD. The first chapter focuses on the Hippocratic collection –the first systematic medical corpus that has survived to us from antiquity (5th-4th century BC). The second chapter focuses on De medicina by the encyclopedist Celsus (1st century AD), who lived and produced his work at Rome at the time when Tiberius was emperor. The third and fourth chapters examine the views of Aretaeus of Cappadocia (1st-2nd century AD) and Galen (2nd century AD) respectively. From Aretaeus we have a treatise entitled

On the causes and signs of acute and chronic diseases. Aretaeus' chapters on mania and melancholia stand out as excellent examples of a kind of writing that combines clinical precision with literary merit and aspirations. Galen, in his turn, is by far the most important physician of Greco-Roman antiquity. The fifth and final chapter deals with the De morbis acutis et chronicis by Caelius Aurelianus (4th-5th century AD). This text is a Latin translation of the (lost) Περὶ ὀξέων καὶ χρόνιων παθῶν by Soranus of Ephesus (1st-2nd century AD). In translating the Greek original, Caelius adds his own personal voice, thus giving us the opportunity to follow the medical developments on the topic of mania and melancholia in late antiquity.

