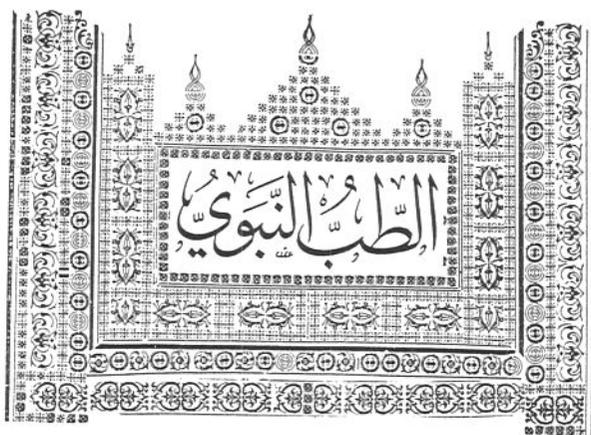


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THE PROPHET'S MEDICINE  
A Creation of the Muslim Traditionalist Scholars

by  
Irmeli Perho



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## ABSTRACT

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Among the Prophet's sayings collected by the Muslims there are some that contain dietary and medical rules. These medical sayings were assembled into specialized hadith collections entitled *al-Ṭibb al-nabawī* (The Prophet's Medicine). The Prophet's medicine developed from collections of uncommented hadiths into medical books where the sayings were placed within the framework of medical theory. This stage in the development is apparent in the texts of the 8th/14th century authors Muḥammad al-Dhahabī, Ibn Qayyim al-Jauzīya and Ibn Mufliḥ.

The aim of this study is to determine the way in which the medical form they promoted differed from Graeco-Islamic medicine, which was the authoritative medicine of the period.

The three authors belonged to the active traditionalist circles of Damascus. They considered Muslim society to be corrupted by innovations and desired to reform their society by enforcing a closer adherence to Islamic law and rejecting all innovations in faith and social customs. The authors saw it as their task to instruct their readers how the guidance of the Prophet could be respected in formulating medical theory and in treating illnesses. They did not reject established Graeco-Islamic medicine, but combined the foreign Graeco-Islamic medical theory with the familiar religious concepts of Islam. The Prophet's medicine—as it appears in the works of Ibn al-Qayyim, Ibn Mufliḥ and al-Dhahabī—was Islamic medicine, which not only gave advice on the treatment of physical illnesses but also responded to the spiritual needs of believers.

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