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An Anonymous Writer of a 15th Century Newly Traced Greek Manuscript Found in a Personal Library in Macedonia, Greece: Medical-Philosophical Interest and Religious Fervour – Not Combined

Fertility and pregnancy, either in man or in (other) animals, had long been an issue of discussion and controversy in the Greek philosophical-medical thought since at least the 5th century BC. Both philosophy and medicine showed interest in the prerequisites and process of fertilization, trying to address questions such as heredity, multiple pregnancy, teratogenesis or why a child is born a female or a male. Interest will continue throughout the whole hellenistic and roman period and will not cease till the end of the byzantine period.

The Fall of Constantinople is considered to have put a stop to all philosophical or scientific research in the ottoman territory, at least for the first following centuries. Human capital in the fields of the letters and arts, science and philosophy, often fled to the West, evacuating a substantial part of the manuscripts that constituted the byzantine official and ecclesiastical libraries. Although not impossible, it might seem highly improbable that during these early ages of general retrogression as far as thinking is concerned there could be traced a personality that, most probably residing in Constantinople under ottoman control and having an ecclesiastical background, should get a keen interest in those matters and write a relevant treatise less than 20 years after the Fall.

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