

Preventive measures against epidemics based on the view of Bahā' al-Dawlah Razi

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Abstract:

Throughout the history of human life, epidemics have always been one of the serious threats to human life making their control and prevention of particular importance. One of the leading physicians of Persian Medicine in the Safavid era is Bahā' al-Dawlah Razi, who in addition to his scientific status, had also a political status. In his book "Khulāsat al-Tajārib", he has discussed a complete set of definitions of the conditions that cause epidemics, the symptoms of the disease, and the ways to prevent and control it. This article intends to categorize the contents of Bahā' al-Dawlah Razi's book, which includes his personal experiences and those of other physicians of the Islamic period up to the Safavid period, in relation to epidemics. This is a descriptive-historical study based on library resources, which has studied the subject of epidemics according to Bahā' al-Dawlah Razi's book, and then analyzed each section and the conclusions as well as reconciling of results to modern medicine. The contents of Khulāsat al-Tajārib on epidemics can be divided into three sections. Materials related to sections one and two were collected by him. In the third part, we see Bahā' al-Dawlah Razi' ideas in the prevention section such as referring to use of specific clothes in indoor places, recommending use of mosquito nets and the use of special plants. These methods are unique to Bahā' al-Dawlah Razi during the epidemics. Razi's "Khulāsat al-Tajārib" is one of the recent books of Persian Medicine, where he has collected the opinions of scholars before him in addition to mentioning his own experiences. Therefore, research on this book is very important as his recommendations and treatment strategies can be proposed as the basis of further basic and clinical studies.

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