

**The Plague in Athens - Page 1**

1. Despite Thucydides' careful description of the symptoms of this disease, modern scientists have been unable to identify the disease. Why might this be?

Answer: Modern scientists have been unable to identify the disease, because a while ago, it was only tested on animals, which is harder to discover the disease compared to trials and experimentation on humans.

2. The social effects of the plague are central to Thucydides' account. What were they? Do the behaviors he describes constitute "true" human nature, revealed when social convention breaks down, or is social convention more indicative of "true" human nature?

Answer: One occasion occurred when the sick found compassion in the ones who recovered from the disease. They congratulated and complimented them when they saw their recovery, for they thought that no person could be attacked twice from the disease. This reveals true human nature when social convention breaks down, because in the midst of the trials, miracles people witness can change their attitude and confidence as well as their belief in overcoming the disease. Social convention is not from human nature, because human nature does not define it, rather social convention can change the way in which one individual may react to something. In this case, the people were congratulating themselves as well as the ones who have recovered from the disease, but their recovery does not mean social convention taking place, rather it is a natural reaction from humans to find their fellow people getting better.