

Illness as Metaphor and AIDS and Its Metaphors

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Brimming with humane and original ideas about a disease and the modern condition, this classic essay and its sequel -- written 10 years later -- are passionate exhortations and a liberating event. "Taken together, the two essays are an exemplary demonstration of the power of the intellect in the face of the lethal metaphors of fear." -- *The Nation*

Susan Sontag was born in Manhattan in 1933 and studied at the universities of Chicago, Harvard and Oxford. Her non-fiction works include *Against Interpretation*, *On Photography*, *Illness as Metaphor*, *AIDS and its Metaphors* and *Regarding the Pain of Others*. She is also the author of four novels, a collection of stories and several plays. Her books are translated into thirty-two languages. In 2001 she was awarded the Jerusalem Prize for the body of her work, and in 2003 she received the Prince of Asturias Prize for Literature and the Peace Prize of the German Book Trade. She died in December 2004.

"Susan Sontag's *Illness as Metaphor* was the first to point out the accusatory side of the metaphors of empowerment that seek to enlist the patient's will to resist disease. It is largely as a result of her work that the how-to health books avoid the blame-ridden term 'cancer personality' and speak more soothingly of 'disease-producing lifestyles' . . . *AIDS and Its Metaphors* extends her critique of cancer metaphors to the metaphors of dread surrounding the AIDS virus. Taken together, the two essays are an exemplary demonstration of the power of the intellect in the face of the lethal metaphors of fear." -- Michael Ignatieff, *"The New Republic"*

Other Books

The Voice of Breast Cancer in Medicine and Bioethics. Unlike any other volume focusing on women's health issues, this collection brings together a wealth of cross-disciplinary perspectives to bear on the intersection of breasts and medicine. Among other works on similar subject matters, the academic versatility of this volume is unparalleled. This collection can serve as a textbook in a wide range of courses including those in philosophy, women's studies, biology, psychology, literature, history, and medicine.

❓ ❓ ❓ ❓ ❓ . And so, in *AIDS and Its Metaphors* , Sontag admits she wrote *Illness as Metaphor* "spurred by evangelical zeal as well as anxiety about how much time I had left to do any living or writing in" (Sontag 1988, 13)."