

THE BLACK DEATH

Causes

- God (punishment for sins)
- Miasma (bad air)
- Astrology
- Four Humours



Treatments

- Rubbing onions on the buboes
- Praying to God
- Drinking vinegar
- Eating crushed emeralds
- Balancing the Four Humours by bleeding or purging (being sick)



Preventions

- Filling the house with strong smelling herbs to stop the miasma
- Boiling vinegar or onions
- Flagellation (whipping yourself)



Symptoms

Day 1 Painful swellings called buboes appeared in the victim's armpits and groin. These were usually about the size of an egg, but could sometimes be as big as an apple.

Day 2 The victim vomited and developed a fever.

Day 3 Bleeding under the skin caused dark blotches all over the body.

Day 4 The disease attacked the nervous system. This caused the victim to suffer spasms. The victim was in terrible pain.

Day 5 Sometimes the buboes burst and a foul-smelling black liquid oozed from the open boils. When this happened the victim usually lived. However, in most cases the victim suffered a painful death.

Consequences

- **Political** – Peasants for the first time had some power, as most of the workforce died. They were able to demand higher wages.
- **Social** – Art and architecture changes to reflect the Black Death, and art has more solemn themes. Latin because less widely spoken, and most texts are now written in English.
- **Economic** – Countries are afraid to trade with each other for fear of spreading the Black Death, so the economy is affected.
- **Religious** – Most of the priests and monks die of the Black Death as they would visit and comfort the dying. They were replaced with rubbish priests who could not even read or write!