**Document A: The Report of the Paris Medical Faculty** (Modified)

*The passage below is an excerpt from “The Report of the Paris Medical Faculty,” issued in October 1348. In the report, medical faculty at the University of Paris describe what they believed were the origins of the bubonic plague and provide advice on how to avoid contracting the plague.*

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We, the Members of the College of Physicians of Paris,...intend to make known the causes of this pestilence...we, therefore, declare as follows:

It is known that in India and the vicinity of the Great Sea, the constellations which combated the rays of the sun...exerted their power especially against that sea...the waters of the ocean arose in the form of vapour; thereby the waters were in some parts so corrupted that the fish which they contained died...this vapour spread itself through the air in many places on the earth, and enveloped them in fog...on all the islands and adjoining countries to which this corrupted sea-wind extends,...If the inhabitants of those parts do not employ and adhere to the following or similar means and precepts, we announce to them inevitable death, except the grace of Christ preserve their lives.

...every one of you should protect himself from the air;...wormwood and camomile should also be burnt in great quantity in the market- places, in other densely inhabited localities, and in the houses...Cold, moist, watery food in is general prejudicial. Going out at night, and even until three o'clock in the morning, is dangerous, on account of dew...Equally injurious are fasting and excessive abstemiousness, anxiety of mind, anger, and immoderate drinking...Bathing is injurious...Every one should impress this on his recollection, but especially those who reside on the coast, or upon an island into which the noxious wind has penetrated.

***Source:*** *The Report of the Paris Medical Faculty, October 1348.*

**Document A: The Report of the Paris Medical Faculty**

Sourcing and Contextualization

1. Who wrote this document?
2. When and where was this document written?
3. Why was this document written?
4. Do you think people in 1348 trusted and believed in this author?

Close Reading and Corroboration

1. Where did the plague originate?
2. What or who caused the plague?
3. What should people have done to try and prevent or cure the plague?

**Document B: Ibn al-Wardi (Modified)**

*The passage below is an excerpt from Ibn al-Wardi’s “An Essay on the Report of Pestilence.” Ibn al-Wardi was an Arab writer, philosopher, and historian who was alive in the Middle East during the plague. Here, he describes the effects of the plague on the city of Allepo in Syria. In 1349, al-Wardi died from the plague.*

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The Plague frightened and killed. It began in the land of darkness...China was not preserved from it nor could the strongest fortress hinder it. The plague afflicted the Indians in India...the Sind...the Persians...and Crimea...The plague destroyed mankind in Cairo...It stilled all movement in Alexandria. The plague did its work like a silkworm.

...Then, the plague turned to Upper Egypt...The plague attacked Gaza...strapped Sidon and descended unexpectedly upon Beirut, cunningly. Next, it directed the shooting of its arrows to Damascus. There the plague sat like a king on a throne and swayed with power, killing daily 1000 or more and decimating the population.

...Oh God, it is acting by Your command. Lift this from us. It happens where You wish; keep the plague from us. Who will defend us against the horror other than You the Almighty? . . .

...The pestilence caused the people of Alleppo the same disturbance...Oh, if you could see the nobles of Aleppo studying their inscrutable books of medicine. They multiply its remedies by eating dried and sour foods. The buboes which disturb men’s healthy lives are smeared with Armenian clay. Each man treated his humors and made life more comfortable. They perfumed their homes with ambergris and camphor, cyperus [sic] and sandal. They wore ruby rings and put onions, vinegar and sardines together with the daily meal**.**

**...**We ask God’s forgiveness for our souls’ bad inclination; the plague is surely part of His punishment. We take refuge from His wrath in His pleasure and from His chastisement in His restoring. They said: the air’s corruption kills. I said: the love of corruption kills. How many sins and how many offenses does the crier call our attention to.

***Source:*** *Ibn al-Wardi, “An Essay on the Report of the Pestilence,” 1348.*

**Document B: Ibn al-Wardi**

Sourcing and Contextualization

1. Who wrote this document?
2. When and where was this document written?
3. Why was this document written?
4. Do you think people in 1348 trusted and believed in this author?

Close Reading and Corroboration

1. Where did the plague originate?
2. What or who caused the plague?
3. How did people try and prevent or cure the plague?