

### "Dear Dax" for the Laveidem Times

**Situation:** You have been contacted by the local newspaper, the Laveidem Times, to respond to questions in their "Dear Dax" column about the plague. Little do they know that you are a time-traveling author, with access to both modern day and medieval knowledge about the plague.

**Directions:** Using notes from the video, write complete sentence responses that would answer the questions, keeping in mind the world in which the person lives and what s/he would have understood. You may include modern understanding, but explain it in a way that the medieval person might grasp. Be kind and respectful in your responses. Each response is worth 3 points (accuracy and completeness of information, as well as the voice in which it is written – addressing the individual in a thoughtful manner and paying attention to the social status of the individual.) \*An example is done for you.

\*\*During the medieval times they called the plague “pestilence” or “the great mortality”

Dear Dax,  
Where did this cursed scourge come from? How has it reached London?  
Sincerely, Merchant Matthew

Dear Merchant Matthew,  
This scourge has come to our home from lands far to the east, in a place called the Mongolian Steppes. It has left in its wake much death. I heard that the Mongols, fearing loss in the siege of Caffa, catapulted bodies infected with this illness over the walls, spreading it to the inhabitants. Trade ships then brought the scourge to Sicily and eventually to our homes in London. Perhaps you should avoid trading voyages until this illness has passed.

Dear Dax,  
How will I know if I have contracted this illness? I'm afraid I might miss the signs.  
Sincerely, Peasant Pauline

Dear Dax,  
What is the best way for me to take care of my family so they don't become ill? There are so many treatment options out there, I don't know what to choose.  
Sincerely, Noble Ned

Dear Dax,  
Have I or my family angered God in some way? What else could have caused this illness?  
Sincerely, Thatcher Thomas

Dear Dax,  
I hear that in many places Jews are being tortured and killed. Why is this? Have they done something to cause this sickness?  
Sincerely, Knight Nathan

Dear Dax,  
Flagellants came through our town today. My son wants to join them. Should I let him?  
Sincerely, Peasant Peter

Dear Dax,  
I have buried my children and my wife. So many have died. Will life ever return to normal or has this cursed scourge ruined our lives forever?  
Sincerely, Noble Niles