

## Galen's Theory of Grades in the Treatise

### *De simplicium medicamentorum temperamentis ac facultatibus*

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As Galen of Pergamum cites in his treatise *De simplicium medicamentorum temperamentis ac facultatibus*, drug is any substance which when coming into the human body is not assimilated with it, remaining thus unaltered, while it causes alterations to the body, either beneficial or harmful. He divides the drugs into simple and compound ones.

In the same treatise, he outlines the efficacy of a simple drug and he establishes the classification of the simple pharmaceutical substances based on the quantification of their properties, in a twelve grade scale.

The classification of drugs on the basis of the intensity of their properties was stated for the first time in the History of Pharmacy by Galen. As a theory it was accepted for more than 1600 years. Just in the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Pharmacology, under the influence of chemistry and biology, abandoned the system of properties and their grades of intensity, which had been introduced by Galen.