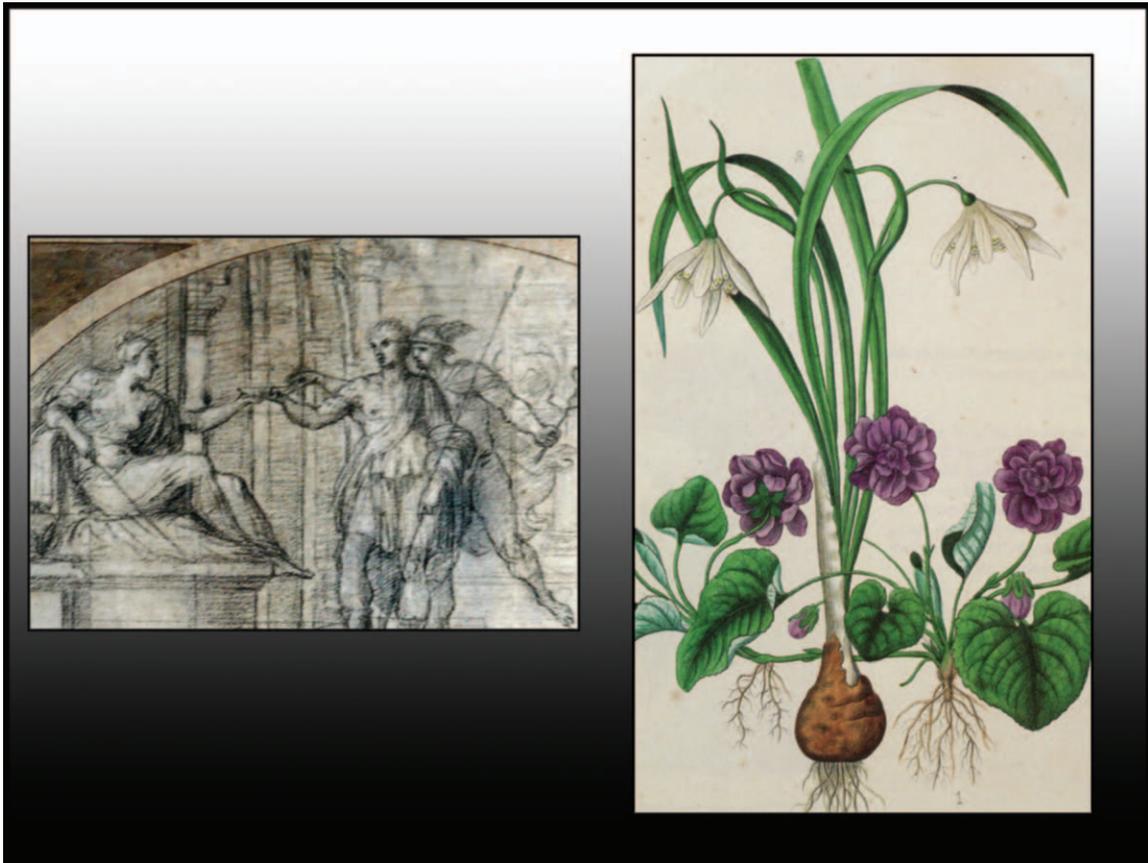


Holy Moly: Hermes' Anticholinesterase Antidote



Above the double-flowering sweet violets (ca. 1870, *right*), W. H. Prestele depicted Snowdrops from the genus *Galanthus* of winter/spring blooming plants with dark roots and down-facing white flowers. Snowdrops were linked (1722) by British poet Thomas Tickell to the herb Moly that wing-helmeted Hermes (*left*, A. Carracci's ca. 1590 *Mercury Protecting Ulysses from the Charms of Circe*) gave Odysseus (Ulysses) to counteract the potion of the witch-goddess Circe. Plaitakis and Duvoisin (1983) have suggested that the Snowdrop's anticholinesterase inhibitor, galant(h)amine, could be apotropaic (warding off evil) against the tropane alkaloidal effects of Circe's anticholinergic potion. (Copyright © the American Society of Anesthesiologists, Inc.)

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