

FM REVIEW 2009-2012 32

COMMENTS TO EDITOR: This poem has a good theme, but the reviewers (two experienced physicians who know a lot about poetry) did not find it very compelling. Nevertheless, I'd like to give the author a chance to revise because the idea is strong. I endorse the reviewers' suggestions below, and add a few points of my own.

COMMENTS TO AUTHOR: Thank you for this poem. It has the kernel of a truly wonderful idea, but in the opinion of reviewers and editors requires a bit more work. Reviewer #1 suggests rewriting the poem from the first person perspective, and this might in part also address Reviewer #2's concern to find more emotion, and overcome the distance created by writing in third person ("them" implied, "their"). You might try first person plural ("our" bodies, "our" money is lost, "we" lose sleep), which might convey the sense of shared fates. Finally, please reconsider the next to last line, listing emotions. Is there a way you can show these emotions, rather than simply enumerating? Maybe making them into verbs? ("we hope, we fret, occasionally we are grateful"). This will also have implications for the last line: Perhaps something more along the lines of "the outcomes beyond our control."

COMMENTS TO EDITOR: The author successfully revised his poem following reviewer and asst editor recommendations. It expresses a greater sense of solidarity now and is more emotionally evocative. I recommend publication.

COMMENTS TO AUTHOR: Thank you for a revision which is more emotionally engaging and also, in my view, more aesthetic.