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S.O.A.P.

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ID:

54-year-old male diabetic, admitted for pneumonia and acute kidney injury, new lung mass NYD

This

is how you are identified here.

In this short line

I will invalidate your accomplishments

reduce you to relevant organ systems;

so just forget about how it felt to be well.

S.O.A.P.

Into these four letters I will write your life.

S:

Breathing improved. Patient complaining of ongoing cough.

Denies fevers.

In the one section driven by you

I will stifle your contributions —

ask closed-ended questions

ensor your concerns;

after all, I have been told

this is the least important part.

O:

Afebrile, vital signs stable. Normal heart sounds. Crackles heard on auscultation of right lower lobe.

I will pit your claims
against my astute observations;
if you have told falsehoods
your body will now expose you.
I will open the door
to your most private places —
document them
for the world to see.

A/P:

54-year-old male with pneumonia improving on antibiotics, now on room air. Continue antibiotics and IV fluids for pre-renal AKI. Refer to lung diagnostic clinic as outpatient.

Now that I've met you
I will return to my computer
to treat your numbers and your pictures.
It is here, behind your back
that I decide your future.

S.O.A.P.

With these four letters I have washed away your story
and replaced it with mine.

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