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## When Doctoring

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what's the difference between a shaman and a physician?  
medicine-man, witch-doctor  
paper moons

when in the fluorescently-lit, sterile-seeming ward-way  
a son—the eldest—states that knowing what ails her will kill her  
a mother—the patient—protectedly out of earshot worries  
about what to say to her son

when the memory of the New York Times article about  
nocebos comes to mind before reciting a list of potential  
problems with a new pill —  
— looking for — prescribing — trouble —  
could the side effect be caused by the drug itself or emerge  
from a googled search for what might go wrong?

this healing art —  
each “intervention” a rite unaware  
is all doctoring (a) performance, a sibylline pursuit?

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