

MIND TO MIND

Creative writing that explores the abstract side of our profession and our lives

Stephen T. Harvey, M.D., Editor

Distant Vision

James M. Berry, M.D.

You are tall, sculpted, quiet, elegant,
perfect
personally touched by God;
with crystalline mind, playful spirit
impossible outside a dream, with
black-hole magnetism, yet
distant from orbiting admirers
near but not close,
so I wait, wondering

how it feels to be you, inside your soul,
behind your face, long-buried
lies fractured trust/betrayal/loss;
penetrating trauma healed into
callus of quiet resignation,
so you cry, softly.

Now recovered: wary, heavily armored
once naive, now cynical;
innocence scorned/burned/used/gone.
no way back – no way out,
so you write, soaring frail lines of hope and despair.

University of Texas Southwestern School of Medicine, Dallas, Texas. james.berry@utsw.edu

Accepted for publication October 27, 2020. Published online first on November 23, 2020.

Permission to reprint granted to the American Society of Anesthesiologists, Inc. by copyright author/owner. *Anesthesiology* 2021; 134:498–9. DOI: 10.1097/ALN.0000000000003622

I watch, want to help, to approach,
to say “I see your pain, know your heart,” but
your fortress is thick and high, impervious.
And, you just don’t need another relationship,
so I read, and imagine being you.