REFLECTIONS

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J Gen Intern Med 24(6):774
DOI: 10.1007/s11606-009-0938-4
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The Elements

The Periodic Table lists sexual preference,
atomic weight, boiling point, elemental symbol,
phone number, and relationship with mother.
Elements combine and reject each other
purely on the basis of their outermost shell,
spending eternity judging each other by their covers.

The alkali metals are mendacious, narcissistic,
over-reactive, and sharp tongued.
Bonding, they form a whole range of nasty acids.
The noble gasses, fat or thin, bald or beautiful,
never really share themselves with anyone.

Take two hydrogens in ménage a trios
with one, silken skinned oxygen,
the result is water, pure and simple.
There are limits of course, carbon
on all fours, ringing the floor
in a daisy chain of pleasure
with other loose elements,
yields nothing but pollution
and petroleum products.

Some elements,
even in these difficult times,
remain monogamous.
Sodium and chlorine,
with just a little pinch here
and a little pinch there,
still manage to make salt.