HEALING ARTS

Materia Medica

Fragile

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Within the patient's revelation
your eyes sting with
the peeling onion layers
of a life gone terribly wrong
and you try hard not to cry.

no white-washed white coat tales
for you, soon-to-be doctor,
the trusted one
so you shift foot position, bow your head,
remain silent, pausing
in the offered space.

the precise coding for
the yuck of a life narrative
escapes your mind
at this very point in time
so you listen and truly hear.

share the "fragile—handle with care" sign
with the vulnerable, hold the hand-blown glass figure
gently in the moment
then head on home remembering
why you went into this business at all.

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