



## Caring, chaos, conflict - a cinquain

Swapnil Paralikar, MBBS, MD (Physiology), CMCL-FAIMER 2015 Fellow

Assistant Professor, Department of Physiology  
Government Medical College, Bhavnagar

### Corresponding Author:

Dr. Swapnil Paralikar  
18, Taksh Bungalows, Near Shobhana Nagar  
Vasna Road, Vadodara, Gujarat, INDIA.  
Email: drsparalikar at gmail dot com

Received: 21-JUN-2019

Accepted: 24-JUN-2019

Published Online: 25-JUN-2019

### Poet's Note:

Poetry can illuminate the artistic side of medicine. It allows one to express oneself and fosters creativity. The views one espouses about phenomenon in medicine can be succinctly expressed through poetry.[1] It lends clarity to the expression of one's experiences and emotions.

Cinquain [cinq (French) = five] is a form of poetry that uses a five-line stanza. Each line is made up of a certain number of syllables in the following order: two, four, six, eight, and two. The first line introduces the subject, which is then described in the next three lines of the stanza, and the cinquain ends with a reference to the subject again. I chose this poetic expression for its simplicity and its ability to convey the message crisply.[2]

Violence against doctors is a global phenomenon.[3,4] In India, it has assumed alarming proportions. This poem highlights the myriad of factors at play in precipitating the violence. Public hospitals in India are overcrowded and understaffed. Equipment are faulty and many vital investigations are not available.

To add fuel to the angst against doctors, is a faulty belief system. It is believed that malpractice is rampant, and that doctors in public hospitals are deliberately derelict in their duties. The recent physical violence against an intern in Kolkata is testimony to this trend. Large scale protests by doctors, including a nation-wide strike, has brought the issue into the limelight. Such patient behavior is highly condemnable and needs to be curbed immediately.[5]

Cite this article as: Paralikar S. Caring, chaos, conflict - a cinquain. RHiME. 2019;6:61-2.

Clinics  
Overcrowded  
Doctors, nurses scurry  
Wretched place for the sick  
Chaos...

Patients  
Rustic, Naive  
Pleading, Wailing, Fuming  
Desperate for cure  
Helpless...

Doctors  
Resource hit  
Persevering, Struggling  
Lifesavers against odds  
Copers...

Talking  
Short, Curt  
Incoherent, inept  
Telling briefly, confusingly  
Lacking...

Conflict  
False Notions  
Impatience flaring  
Diverging expectations  
Wanton...

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