

Fragile Scream

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Neurology® 2018;90:427. doi:10.1212/WNL.0000000000005015

My chest is fragile
 My airways are tight
 My throat is sore
 My eyes are dry
 My skin is wrinkled
 My skin is bruised
 My soul is captive, helpless, and shy
 My brain is sodden with memories and dreams
 Not only what you view
 Angry bursts and silence too
 I am here
 I hear you
 I see your nebulous faces
 Don't pinch me
 Don't squeeze me
 Let me die
 Don't tap on my ankles, knees, and jaw
 My spine is working; disconnected from my brain, though
 I've heard how atrophic my brain was
 But please don't forget the decades of collective wisdom and pride
 I dreamt of my boyhood home
 Grandma's delicious chicken soup and a freshly baked Cinnamon-Raisin loaf
 You may say, it could be your last
 Yes, but for me, it is a wonderful experience from my past
 You would rather feed me through a tube
 Yellow, runny, and tasteless gruel
 Don't pinch me
 Don't squeeze me
 Let me die
 I am too drained to move
 Too tired to talk
 Blink my eyes
 Move my mouth
 Or even lick lips so dry
 You see me on your rounds
 But I am lying there; can't move
 Waiting for my soul to escape through the cracks
 And for my body to rest in the dark
 My family may tell you: Full code; bring him back
 But I say: Don't squeeze
 And in peace, let me die, please.

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MORE ONLINE

Audio

Listen to Dr. Obeidat read this poem.

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This information is current as of February 26, 2018

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