

On the spotless mind

Miguel Leal Rato, MD

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Correspondence

Dr. Leal Rato

mlealrato@gmail.com

The tilting of the head
and the vacant eyes
and then the most wonderful surprise
as you laugh it off and try
to disguise that you have no idea
who I am or why you're here
in front of me with a daughter by your side
who says you've dwindled away
until there is nothing left of you
that you leave the stove on
and forget to water the chrysanthemum
so you laugh it off
because she thinks she knows it all
as you cover the burns on your hand
and stare blankly at me
for I asked a rather peculiar question

Do you know where you are?

You tilt your head
searching with vacant eyes
and then the most wonderful surprise
as you notice for the first time
the white coat
and the stethoscope
so you laugh it off because
it's the doctor's office of course
but you have no idea
who I am or why you're here
in front of me with a daughter by your side
who says you've been failing

And so she cries

You wait dazed and amused
for it makes no sense
nothing has for a while
the days just blend together
fading one into another
but you laugh it off
stop your hands from shaking
and with a soft touch grab your daughter's thigh
worry not, my child, the doctor's here
besides there is nothing wrong with me
I'm getting old and
you know
some things just have to be so.

MORE ONLINE

🔊 Audio

Listen to Dr. Leal Rato read this poem.

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