
POETRY | FALL 2020

In That Regard

By Cassia Tremblay

A reflection on one of the first, and most memorable, clinical cognitive tests the author has preformed

His brain was shrinking.

Its bony shield had failed to protect it
from the proteins that leaked in
and the memories that leaked out.

So he built a new guard
in defence
to the cognitive test.

“In that regard...” he said
“I can’t quite answer.”

“In that regard...” was all he said at all when
I asked him to spell WORLD backwards.

As his own world was slipping away
he couldn’t find the answers for mine.

In that regard In that regard In that regard
In that regard In that regard In that regard
In that regard In that regard In that regard

It was a cushion to catch him as his brain let him down.

“In that regard.”
An idiom to deflect,
protect,
whatever was left.

11/30, at the end.
But we didn’t need the numbers
after all.

He rose from the chair.

Seeing his wife
his lips turned up at the edges
and his eyes cleared.

He clasped her hand in his own,
sun spots sliding over sun spots
like the long sunsets had led them here,

and kissed it.

Still himself
in that regard.

Cassia Tremblay is a fourth-year medical student at the University of British Columbia. She believes words can capture both beautiful and challenging moments. Studying medicine while living in 'Beautiful British Columbia' has provided ample opportunities for both. Her poem "In That Regard" appears in the Fall 2020 Intima.

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