

Born There: A Poem

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Recommended Citation

Kim, C. (2011). Born There: A Poem . *Online Journal of Health Ethics*, 7(2). <http://dx.doi.org/10.18785/ojhe.0702.02>

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Born There

By Curi Kim

**Birth geography
Tied tight to longevity
But when might is right
What rights are given that might
Right the balance of the world**

**No rites can heal this
Hideous hemoptysis
If a mite of care
The mighty felt to fight white
Plague, then this I needn't write**

About the Poem

It was inspired by a patient from Africa with drug-resistant tuberculosis and the dedication of colleagues to cure him. He would have otherwise died, another statistic in an epidemic of injustice; over a million people worldwide still die from this treatable and preventable disease.*

Any correspondence concerning this poem should be addressed via email to Curi Kim, MD, MPH, Medical Officer, Division of Global Migration and Quarantine, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at ckim@cdc.gov.

* Reference: http://www.who.int/tb/publications/global_report/en/index.html