



First Do No Harm

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In the heady days of his education,
enthralled with science,
he devoured fruit from the tree of knowledge,
binged on ideas, gorged on words
of biochemists, bacteriologists, pathologists.

Progress his mantra, a sense of infallibility
his protection, everything seemed possible.
As years passed, new paradigms eclipsing old,
drugs he'd prescribed did little good,
procedures brought no benefit, sometimes harm.

In that sea of fashions and fallacies,
false compass bearings could be made.
He sailed a fragile barque,
fearing shipwreck on the Isle of Error,
caution now his watchword.

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