And concepts of the absolute
Are naught but man-made things
Born of a lust for certainty
The natter of truth-mongering

Alas, where can a heart like mine turn
To make sense of this place
Whether religion of science or of god
Both are built on boundless faith

If freedom is found in belief’s pursuit
Then I starve to be free
Yet faith shan’t be freed from reason’s grasp
And my reason comes only from me.

Daniel S Barron
University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio

Correspondence to Daniel S Barron, 8403 Floyd Curl Dr., San Antonio, TX 78229, USA; barrond@uthscsa.edu

Competing interests None to declare.

Provenance and peer review Not commissioned; not externally peer reviewed.

Published Online First 19 April 2011


Infinite ability

The uneasy fumble, the continued struggle and the visible cripple
Became part of his life since inception
The orthopedic surgeon diagnosed PPRP 70%
The proud parents interrupted, it’s motivation 100%
The weakened quadriceps were encircled by iron callipers
And two crutches were provided as limp stabilizers
Hydrotherapy, electrotherapy, surgical therapy
Everything was tried without reluctance
No defiance, this was sheer persistence

The tortoise began his education amongst hares
The damaged motor neurons were equally compensated with able mentors
Partial cerebral hypertrophy stabilized the atrophied limb
And the affective domain overpowered the psychomotor defect
Stairs were his biggest fear
They still are
But he achieved his biggest dreams climbing those
Slowly, steadily, at times painfully
He timely realized that the goals needed his ability not disability

He may not be a Guyton, Roosevelt or Siebert
He doesn’t have to be
To understand that
Life is exhilarating not debilitating
The cerebrum still declares it as post polio residual disability
No, no…says his content left atrium it’s infinite ability

Satendra Singh

Correspondence to Dr Satendra Singh, Assistant Professor of Physiology, Medical Humanities Group, Medical Education Unit, University College of Medical Sciences, Dilshad Garden, Delhi 110095, India; dr.satendra@gmail.com

Competing interests None declared.

Provenance and peer review Not commissioned; not externally peer reviewed.

Published Online First 16 February 2011

J Med Ethics; Medical Humanities 2011;37:45. doi:10.1136/jmh.2010.006841