

It is difficult
to get the news from poems
yet men die miserably every day
for lack
of what is found there.

“Asphodel, That Greeny Flower” by William Carlos Williams, a physician and poet

Threat of the Spores

Beware the threat of the spores,
Bad news parcels bide their time.
They lurk to enter the unsuspecting
And unleash dormant evil that multiplies.

The twin rings of code within are culprits
Spawning the Unholy Trinity of toxins.
Inject to bleed, swell, and destroy,
While the “protective” antigen does anything but.

Skin lesions black as the namesake coal,
Pale in comparison to the inhaled disease.
Finely milled, known simply as Ames strain
Artificial and abhorrent agents of terror.

“Alpha” bacteria,
Germs of the germ theory.
Origin of the famous postulates,
Crafty bugs made cruel by man.

Brought home the nesting-doll syndrome,
Envelopes, spores, bacilli, plasmids.
With it the fear and the frenzy
To cure what we create.

Setu K. Vora

ANOTHER DIMENSION. Submit thoughtful essays, short stories, or poems on philosophical issues related to science, medical practice, and human health. Topics may include science and the human condition, the unanticipated side of epidemic investigations, or how people perceive and cope with infection and illness. This section is intended to invoke compassion for human suffering and to expand the science reader’s literary scope. Manuscripts are selected for publication as much for their content (the experiences they describe) as for their literary merit.