



The gentle reaper

Arundhati V Subramani

First year medical student, Dr. BR Ambedkar Medical College, Bangalore

Corresponding Author:

Arundhati V Subramani,
Bangalore, Karnataka

Email: arundhati dot v dot subramani at gmail dot com

Submitted: 21-July-2020

Accepted: 26-July-2020

Published: 28-July-2020



Artwork credit:

Haryax Pathak, MBBS
Former Intern
Pramukh Swami Medical College,
Karamsad, Gujarat

Anonymous he stands, a Reaper not Grim;
The saviour of souls that sway
Between the realms of life and death,
Hanging by a thread, halfway.

The prayers of their kin to answer,
His safety at stake, with all his might,
His scope against the deadly scythe,
The Reaper Grim of death he fights.

Wedged between the jaws of death,
Preventing them from closing in,
Shields you from its ghastly fangs,
The lines of life now blurring in.

Brings home after a duel with death,
Your kin cradling his arms secure.
Expects no credit, fame nor acclaim,
His intentions not once impure.

The saviour, honest, noble, and brave
Sometimes lose the battle he does
Barely dodging the Grim Reaper of death
A splendid battle lost it was

Despite his efforts relentless
You pelt with stones the warrior weak
Disgrace the glorious battle he fought
Allow him not to defend or speak.

Cite this article as: Subramani AV. The gentle reaper. RHIME. 2020;7:175-6.

Sleepless nights to keep you safe,
Listens to your woes without complaint,
Content in your being hale,
His face masked black with warpaint.

Whether or not you atone for your sins,
He combats the Reaper Grim unleashed;
The Gentle Reaper you might silence
But humanity shan't remain stifled.

Poet's note: This poem aims to bring out the difference between the doctor and the Grim Reaper, who is a personification of death. Often visualized as a black cloaked skeleton, he holds an hourglass, waiting for the last grain of sand to fall so he can take the soul to his abode, the realm of the dead, with a skillful stroke of his sharp scythe. Here, the doctor is referred to as the Gentle Reaper and as the Reaper not Grim to bring out the contrast, for he saves the soul and brings it back to our living world.