



Angel in hiding

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Submitted: 04-AUG-2020

Accepted: 12-AUG-2020

Published: 13-AUG-2020



Artwork credit:
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They are the neo-docs – the doctor-2 versions of us.

Being a member of the medical faculty, I am blessed to be surrounded by these energetic, intelligent doctors-in-making. What exuberant energy, what dreams in their bright twinkling eyes – eyes that are lined by dark circles, pencilled shadows from years of reading and writing...but they don't care about that. They devote, or rather, they sacrifice the prime years of their youth preparing for competitive exams and then spend years in honing their competencies to practice medicine. And the

sacrifice is all worth it – but, as the COVID-19 era has emphasised, a country should spend equally on health infrastructure as they do on defence and on weapons.

These new-age doctors are the kind of warriors our country needs. They work day and night, literally, for their patients. But...lately, incidences of violence against young doctors makes them want to hide their identities. They'd rather work in the dark, reluctant to reveal their angelic selves, because of the lack of trust and the evolving culture of violence.

Cite this article as: Raval RM. Angel in hiding. RHIME. 2020;7:187-8.

They didn't start down this tough road for this...for this strange vulnerability. Now, while treating a critical patient, they have to keep many more things in mind besides the patient's health condition. The world is not being fair to these young doctors...and slowly their fearless courage will die.

Let them do their job; let them come out in the sun and not be forced to hide their faces.

Medicine is a noble profession. But the onus is on everyone to contribute equally to its nobility. Trust and Empathy works both ways; nurturing works both ways.

Doctors are not gods, but are they also not humans? One must think of how one can contribute so that this flower blooms instead of shrinking into the darkness out of fear and insecurity.
