



## Can't breathe

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As his lungs demand more air,  
the virus gripping his system  
makes the SPO2 drop  
steadily like a sick game  
between man and nature  
and nature is winning  
while he struggles to breathe.  
'Please, can't breathe,' he gasps,  
looking around for help...

*Can't breathe*

She raises her frail fingers  
calling out to the people  
in white suits...  
They look at her with sad eyes  
and shake their heads...  
'Oxygen,' someone gasps.  
'No supply,' the other breathes.  
'I feel suffocated. Can't breathe,' a third shakes her head,  
and they turn away  
leaving her clutching her chest  
trying to save the little air  
that her lungs can hold.

*Can't breathe*

'I need an oxygen cylinder.'  
The frail little boy  
wet with sweat

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panicky and out of breath  
constantly adjusts his mask  
wiping sweat with his shirt.  
'I need oxygen for my mother.'  
His eyes are fearful.  
Another man looks up,  
names a price casually,  
pointing to the cylinders behind him.  
'How? That's like three times more.'  
The young boy is trembling now  
feeling for the crumpled notes  
in his torn pocket.  
'Take it or leave it,'  
the other scoffs.  
The mother coughs somewhere  
trying to get relief  
but there's no air...

*Can't breathe*

The nation lets out  
a unanimous cry  
at the scarcity of something  
as basic as oxygen...  
Owing to the second tide  
of the deadliest pandemic,  
the nation is suffocated.  
The nation can't breathe  
in shock  
in anticipation  
and in fear...  
Oxygen is still a dream  
- somewhere somehow -  
when we need it right now...

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