



## Why, Father?

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Why, Father? Why did you do that?  
You with your passion for teaching  
labeled me a fool,  
when I read every book you bought us,  
and aced every test,  
and in school was the very best.

Why did you do that?  
Write me off before the long innings even commenced,  
and yet you always led others  
along roads less trodden,  
and bolstered their esteem at every turn.

Why did you do that?  
Magnify my tiny errors,  
rather than be mentor and friend,  
even as you pardoned serious follies,  
in those you trained in occupational health.

Why did you do that?  
Hurl harsh words,  
that made my other battles more difficult,  
even as you were always courteous to strangers,  
and seemed to value others more than us.

Why did you do that?  
Dump me on the sidewalk of life,  
rather than care for and nurture me,  
like you did the patients with nothing to pay,  
and still, you eased their maladies away.

It's been eons  
since my fall from grace,

but, Father, those wounds have not healed,  
unlike the soothing of my other serious ills.

I wish we could mend the breach,  
in letter and in spirit;  
I wish you would help me understand why, Father,  
for then, maybe, my soul would also heal.

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