

MIND TO MIND

*Creative writing that explores the abstract side
of our profession and our lives*

Carol Wiley Cassella, M.D., Editor

Anthropology Note 342/56:799

James M. Berry, M.D.

I
In many larger settlements
is found a temple, monolithic
where priests and acolytes do pray,
amass'd behind magnetic locks
in monochrome (but never red)
for enigmatic sorcery
On willing supplicants;
Only the frail, alone unmasked
present themselves to be exposed,
their hidden depths revealed to all
in blinding light, by knife and saw
with hope of purging ill within;
Just wisps of smoke and char remain
from electrical excision;
No cry escapes enfolding hush,
and speak they not of secrets dark
nor of a death in pain...

From the Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, Nashville, Tennessee. james.berry@vanderbilt.edu

Accepted for publication October 19, 2014.

Copyright © 2014, the American Society of Anesthesiologists, Inc. Wolters Kluwer Health, Inc. All Rights Reserved. *Anesthesiology* 2015; 122:1176