

Innate Curiosity

Jesse O'Shea

During my first delivery while on my Ob/Gyn rotation, questions arose on life, suffering, and universal truths as the baby surfaced for its first breath. While it was a complicated delivery with much to tell, I could not help questioning. Why did the mother have to sustain injury and harm during this experience? Why did the newborn have its cord around its neck? Is this the miracle of life? Innate curiosity. I realized then that men are equal in suffering and in the boundaries of need. They are not born equal—that is, they are not born with equal genetic bequest, physical, or intellectual states. They are equal in the sense that they are born to live, endure, and die. Physicians, who have witnessed men in their naked loneliness, know that perhaps better than anyone else on earth. Physicians will have to help and lead us all in cherishing and restating that final core of human faith. Likewise, it is imperative to understand that as humans we are all interconnected; we are connected in the sense that we are all equal, as stated above, and therefore every life is significant. In the end, despite all the questions raised, despite all of this thinking, I looked onto the newborn, and the newborn looked back at me with curious eyes, and all thoughts were vanquished.



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■ *Jesse O'Shea is a third year medical student. Since a young age, he has acknowledged the power of art as an expressive outlet for healing—exploring forms of writing, photography, painting, and digital/graphic design. Medical school has only confirmed his belief that art is medicine, and medicine is art. HEAL, and other publications, have provided a means of communication for thought. Innate Curiosity is also scheduled to appear on a future cover of Academic Medicine.*