

# *Nature Pursues Its Own Course*

on Sickness

Sickness is no divine punishment  
a malediction thrust down from above  
a chastisement meant to correct some transgression  
a mysterious test designed to build character.

Rabbinic sages observed:

*“olam k’minhago noheg”*

“nature pursues its own course.”

A course often independent of my doing or will  
an amoral flow of events  
indiscriminately falling upon young and old  
good and bad.

*“Olam k’minhago noheg”* --

“Nature pursues its own course.”

Flowers wither, leaves fall  
the earth cracks open

Accidents, not a judging rod.

Where in illness is divinity to be found?

In curative forces discovered within me, between us

In healing powers that form scars

Life-sustaining powers within me

brought forth by

doctors, nurses, research people

social workers, aides.

By family and friends

who stand beside my bed

hold my hand, bless me with their touch.

Curative powers

following prescriptions, respecting counsel

willing strength

In unconscious forces I cannot identify, locate, control

but that surge within me

Energies that move me with the will to recover

to struggle for health.

Ordinary forces, ordinary events of extraordinary power

benevolent forces — within, without, between

conscious and unconscious

To the source of healing, the ground of hope and courage

the faithful Physician

the Life of the universe

my heart flows over.

