Blindfolds

*Introduction to the piece:*

*‘Blindfolds’ highlights the inequity in our health care system and the lack of access to adequate medical care as a result of social discrimination in various forms. Each stanza of the poem highlights a different social issue and its impact on health care through a different protagonist- poverty, homosexuality, gender discrimination.*

A poor ailing daughter, her poor ailing mother.

A hospital minutes away, yet far enough to be a blur.

To be referred to as ‘cases’ was not in their fate.

Yet unlike humans, disease doesn’t discriminate…

‘And what is your relation to the patient?’

‘I am her husband,’ his head was bent.

‘I’m sorry… I can’t treat her,’ he said in consternation.

Alas, diabetic treatment varies with orientation.

‘My baby needs the hospital,’ in agony, she cries.

‘She’s a girl… this is really a blessing in disguise.’

Did the Gods commission her death after child-birth?

Or was it just the many devils that roamed the earth?

What we need in this malevolent world of inequity,

Are blindfolds for doctors, hospitals and for society.

Eyes closed to the myriad ways we’re made differently,

And maybe then, at last, you’ll finally see…

*Acknowledgement:*

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