

..a reply would arrive within **minutes**, and he
would reply to the reply..

He answered **all** phone calls, day or night..
What would come through over hours of talking
was an inarticulate, urgent, and bottomless
anxiety that seeped into him and didn't go
away.

From the hospital, he told them **he was sick**.
When he checked back in to see how they'd
responded to his announcement, he was
shocked. **They didn't care that he was sick:**
they were sick, too, they said; they were in pain,
and he had to take care of them.