On therapy

Ramy Daoud

I worked in medicine for many years before I was drawn to psychiatry. My encounters with patients with physical ailments prefigured those encounters I would have as a psychiatrist. The cognition of pain. The search for meaning. The elucidation of a story. The laying of hands on where it hurts. The re-cognition of pain. Sometimes I would cut it out. Sometimes I would cover it up. Sometimes I could do nothing.

In these instances, I am reminded of Mural by the Palestinian poet of exile, Darwish. I find it quite a haunting piece, lingering in the back of my mind before, during, between sessions with patients. A patient knocks at the door of therapy. Therapy: ‘the dialogue of dreamers’ where the patient ‘shuns body and self . . . to finish that first journey towards meaning, which burnt me, and disappeared.’ Disappeared into absence and no space, where ‘nothing hurts at the door of doom’. In no space, and no time, that insistent voice says ‘one day I shall become . . .’. And they come, knocking at the door of therapy. Therapy is a space-time, an en-closure. Disappeared into absence and no space, where ‘nothing hurts at the door of doom’. In no space, and no time, that insistent voice says ‘one day I shall become . . .’. And they come, knocking at the door of therapy. Therapy is a space-time, an en-closure.

Ramy Daoud is specialty registrar in general adult psychiatry, East Cornwall Community Mental Health Team.
On therapy – extra
Ramy Daoud
Access the most recent version at DOI: 10.1192/bjp.196.6.439

References
This article cites 0 articles, 0 of which you can access for free at:
http://bjp.rcpsych.org/content/196/6/439#BIBL

Reprints/permissions
To obtain reprints or permission to reproduce material from this paper, please write to permissions@rcpsych.ac.uk

You can respond to this article at
http://bjp.rcpsych.org/letters/submit/bjprcpsych;196/6/439

Downloaded from
http://bjp.rcpsych.org/ on November 4, 2016
Published by The Royal College of Psychiatrists

To subscribe to The British Journal of Psychiatry go to:
http://bjp.rcpsych.org/site/subscriptions/