

Suffering

Bettina Suppe

Suppe, a fourth-year SKSM student, wrote this poem for "Ethics of Caring for the Sick," a 2003-2004 Starr King class taught by SKSM graduate Jon Stanger, M.D.

I can write of pain and sorrow
Of longing and loneliness
Of broken-ness

I write not of life in bloom
But the under-side
The inner-side

When I write the words just come
Not chosen from my mind
But flowing from my wounded bird of a heart

I do not judge them
I open the door
Come in! Come in!

Happiness?
Joy?
Where do they live?

Have they knocked at my door?
Only to find it closed and locked?
Have they waited patiently in the rain to be invited in?

I must appear in-hospitable
No welcome mat laid out
No one awaiting their arrival

I can write of pain and sorrow
I can write of longing and loneliness
And brokenness – open the doors!