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## Utility

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# Utility

Safwan K. Elkhatib

Arriving soft and uncertain,  
I am molded into a strong, useful archetype  
Fired in a kiln fueled from a pyre of my lay perspective,  
I am changed irreversibly.

Doctor.  
Which he now proudly calls me,  
Of a wonderful utility to the man who raised me.  
I can definitively name his pains  
To help re-frame them  
Every ache another question stem.  
Untrammelled by ugly, cloying questions  
about our strained relationship  
I am now afforded easy ones  
about Gleason scores and salvage therapy.

Brittle. Unlikely to soften again.



**Safwan K. Elkhatib** is a bipedal mammal and third year medical student. He was raised in the Quad Cities and is a proud Palestinian. He completed a PhD once and learned questions are better than answers. Safwan hopes to one day be a physician-scientist, while working his damndest to make healthcare less of a business. Outside of academia, he enjoys tending to his indoor garden and indoor cats, pumping iron, and listening to old episodes of Car Talk.