Fragile Scream

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MORE ONLINE

Audio

Listen to Dr. Obeidat read this poem.

[NPub.org/xj24pi](https://npub.org/xj24pi)

My chest is fragile
My airways are tight
My throat is sore
My eyes are dry
My skin is wrinkled
My skin is bruised
My soul is captive, helpless, and shy
My brain is sodden with memories and dreams
Not only what you view
Angry bursts and silence too
I am here
I hear you
I see your nebulous faces
Don't pinch me
Don't squeeze me
Let me die
Don't tap on my ankles, knees, and jaw
My spine is working; disconnected from my brain, though
I've heard how atrophic my brain was
But please don't forget the decades of collective wisdom and pride
I dreamt of my boyhood home
Grandma's delicious chicken soup and a freshly baked Cinnamon-Raisin loaf
You may say, it could be your last
Yes, but for me, it is a wonderful experience from my past
You would rather feed me through a tube
Yellow, runny, and tasteless gruel
Don't pinch me
Don't squeeze me
Let me die
I am too drained to move
Too tired to talk
Blink my eyes
Move my mouth
Or even lick lips so dry
You see me on your rounds
But I am lying there; can't move
Waiting for my soul to escape through the cracks
And for my body to rest in the dark
My family may tell you: Full code; bring him back
But I say: Don't squeeze
And in peace, let me die, please.

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