

An Answer to the Legend of Physicians

An anesthesia tale about the doctor who dreamed he was working

Dra. Luana Guedes

Received for publication in January 2008 · Section: Open Forum · Language: English

ABSTRACT

In a tone of humor and personal recollection, the author recounts an episode from her practice in anesthesiology. She explains that, in the past, she used to ask patients whether they had slept well as they awoke from anesthesia, a habit she abandoned after a few unexpected answers. She tells the story of a general practitioner, anesthetized for an emergency surgery, who upon waking said he had had a delightful dream: he had dreamed he was making rounds on his patients. The anecdote serves as a cue for the author to illustrate, lightheartedly, the physician's dedication to and identification with his own vocation, closing with the popular saying that there is a bit of the physician and the madman in everyone, some more than others.

KEYWORDS: *medical humor; anesthesiology; medical anecdotes; medical vocation; personal account*

This reminds me of a physician I anesthetized for an emergency surgery at the Sírío. Back then I still used to ask patients whether they had slept well as they woke up from the anesthesia (I gave up that habit after a few wisecracks I heard). Anyway, he was a general practitioner and, upon waking, he told me he had had a delightful

dream. I asked him what he had dreamed about, and the answer I got was: "I dreamed I was making rounds on my patients"....

There is a bit of the physician and the madman in everyone (some more than others)!

Dr. Luana Guedes