

On Being a Physician



To be a doctor
A'la Æsculapius
(A) noble goal perhaps?

This age-old dream
To heal the maimed and the sick
Has been my life aim

My life ambition
Let this be my life purpose
The *raison d'être*

Of my existence
Too lofty and ambition?
I'll strive to go

About my work
As humbly as (I) possibly can
After all, medicine

The practice of medicine
Needs purposeful direction
(A) quiet demeanour

Don't doctors exist, to
Doctor and to minister
To man, woman, child

This quiet art, medicine
Jealous mistress of mine
Life's own elixir

(A) physician I'll be
Doctoring (has) been my life-work
And will always be

I will go about
My art quietly, humanely
Till death do us part



Chan HL, Physician

Poetic licence is taken out on this 5-7-5 syllabic haiku-ist format to give it an Asian flavour!