



Patches

Squares and rectangles

Defined by their pointed edges, their brown hues of decay

Varying only in their shades of abuse

Green arteries running through them like the receding pulse of sepsis

But what heart is trying to pump one last year of life into their chests

And wash away our wrongdoings?

Baking beneath the sun, the arteries constrict

The lifeblood of the universe ascending on its way to God knows where

And the veins grow weary as the humans begin to drink, to take, to corrupt

Cowering from judgement in the brown puddles for which they have exchanged their fear of discomfort

Amorphous and juxtaposing perfection remain the fleeting specks of hope

Scattered among the decay like a trail of tears

Or an old friend we'd rather forget for the sake of simplicity

But nothing is more simple than what it means to be human

We live in the patches and die in the patches, fighting our own body and beating it into the ground and air.

As our blood vessels shrivel and die, we go softly into the night

Where is the Cure for this Human Disease?

Oh no, it has metastasized!
You must believe me, you must!
"But the X-rays are so old,
Perhaps they've lied to us."

There is no time for 'buts,'
The evidence is clear,
We've got ultrasounds and nanotubes.
We need the surgeons here.

The population is spreading,
It's acting like a consumer.
Here you see arterial recruitment
Diverting blood to the tumors.

The telomerase has been activated,
These malignant cells never die.
They continue inducing necrosis,
And don't care if the host is alive.

The patient is going into remission!
"So the cancer isn't real!"
But wait, there's still no inhibition,
The trend toward relapse reveals.

I've noticed something about these cells:
They lack the p53 gene.
An important tumor suppressor,
Which here means lack of greed.

"Ok, but doctor, listen.
The progression is so slow.
Treating this patient would be so costly,
You need to let it go."

Sir, you must understand,
I have a moral obligation
To treat all patients with benevolence,
Without selfish motivation.

There are a few things we can do,
Though the tumor has progressed,
If you work with me and accept
That complex therapies work best.

We've got immunotherapy,
And the last resort is harsh,
But some healthy exercise and food
Will buy us some time to start.