

### QUESTIONS ON HAHN, pp. 173-208

1. What kind of study is Hahn conducting in today's reading? What is he trying to find out?
2. Barry: "The closer psychiatry is brought to internal medicine, the better both for the patient and the psychiatrist. A patient is a patient; he is sick in a material way." Hahn also notes that Barry believes that psychological explanations mask ignorance. What are all the ingredients leading to formulating such a statement, and having such opinions, with respect to both Barry and internal medicine?
3. Internal medicine is known among fellow specialists as "conservative." Why?
4. What are the three principles deeply embedded within our culture that Barry's outlook illustrates?
5. Hahn says that his ignorance of medicine proved both a handicap and an asset. In what ways, do you suppose?
6. Barry objects to the contemporary insistence on full disclosure: "That's inhumane. A lot of people don't want to know. A lot of people go to their graves hoping they're going to make it." What were your reactions when you read this?
7. Hahn writes:

Near the severe, but uncertain limits of his knowledge, Barry derives the pleasures of his medicine. Beyond these limits lie prominent sources not only of his patients' suffering but of his own suffering as well.

What constitutes *pleasure* here? Do you think this is true for most physicians? Is it true for you?
8. Hahn writes that when Barry refers to the personal "pleasures" of the practitioner, and of the times when "you do what you enjoy," that there is profound irony in such pleasures. Why?
9. Hahn writes, "Barry refers to the conceptualization of the patient's problem as a 'picture,' a 'story,' a 'thing,' and less frequently with the more common medical term, 'entity.'" What consequences do these different ways of talking have, do you think?
10. What was your reaction to Barry's saying that "The only thing that's going to help this girl is letting her complete her suicide."

11. “I don’t feel that compulsive about alcoholics.” What was your reaction to Barry’s moral stance about alcoholics and promiscuous single mothers?