

## STUDY QUESTIONS

Kleinman: 209-267

1. Kleinman discusses a Dr. Bender saying that “Perhaps we are killing what is best in this ancient profession [medicine], like so much else in modern living. We replace intuition and emotion and moral passion with ever more minute rationality and turn questions about ends—the big ends: death, disability, suffering—into tinkering with technology.” Do you agree? Why, or why not?
2. In Kleinman’s discussion, Dr. McNaughton says that in some HMOs the “only really good [client] is the client who doesn’t show, doesn’t bother the HMO...I don’t want to *manage clients*, I want to *care for patients*.” To what extent do you worry this will happen to you as a physician, or to your future physicians?
3. Dr. Gu says that in traditional Chinese medicine “you must search for contradictions in their bodies and in their lives. That is dialectical practice. These contradictions must be resolved so that natural harmony is restored, and the way to health is opened.” To what extent is this true for you, if at all? What does “dialectical” mean?
4. “Where the treatment is right, you feel it yourself, in your body, in your emotions, in your relation with the patient. When the treatment goes badly, it is not just the patient who feels blocked but the doctor, too.” Does this resonate at all with you for Western medicine? Why or why not?
5. Kleinman says that “certain aspects of professional training seem to disable practitioners.” What are these, according to him?
6. What are the positive meanings and the negative meanings of the phrase, “the art of medicine?”
7. Kleinman speaks of “remoralizing the physician.” What does he mean?
8. What do you think of Kleinman's program to improve clinical practice by introducing some areas of anthropological theory and practice into it?
9. Do you feel that “all medicine is in crisis”? (George Engel 1977) If so, why? If not, why?
10. What do you think of a civil suit brought for “wrongful life”?
11. “This used to be a highly respected profession that we wanted to be part of...Now we are the enemy.” (Dr. Burton White, 1993) To what extent do you think this is true?
12. An AMA survey found that 44% of physicians currently in practice reported that, had they known what they now know about medicine as a career, they would not have gone to medical school. What were/are their main complaints?

13. What is “defensive medicine”? Provide some examples.
14. Has medical technology increased the distance between physicians and their patients? If so, how can we remedy this?
15. How is healing a sociocultural as well as a biological process?
16. What is an explanatory model (EM)—recall the Paul Farmer article on *move san* and the discussion at the end of Fadiman.
17. What are some of the “downsides” of development that result in worse health?
18. Howard Stein says that a goal of medical school is to effectively socialize out of medical students any and all subjectivity—the bane of scientific, objective medicine. What is your opinion about the role of subjectivity in clinical practice?
19. Medical training has been described as “abuse.” Why? Give some examples that might qualify. Do you agree?