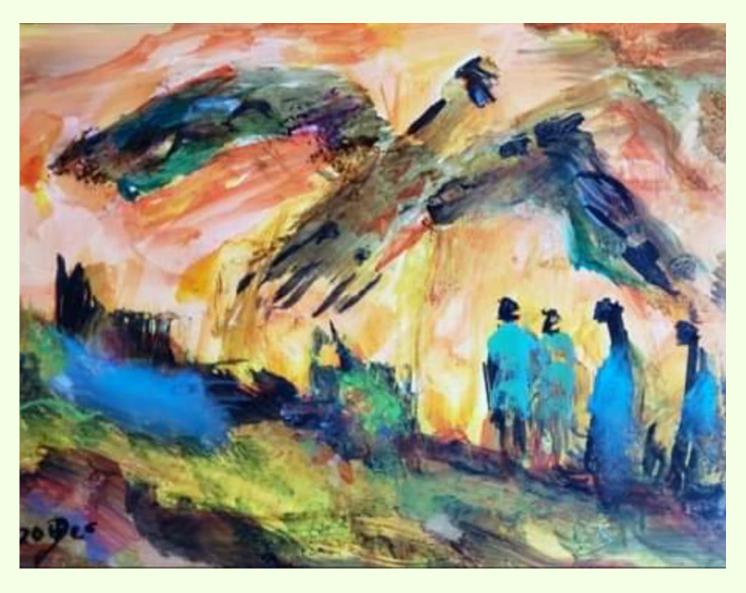
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Illness and Blame Six Ways

1.
It could be our fault. True,
we couldn't have unbalanced
our own chemistry. But most people
find a way to stay well, don't they?

2.
Manage what you own. Attend
the baby showers. Receive
the cake slices. Make yourself laugh
when the regular people laugh.

3.
During a given year nearly twenty percent of the population is ill. They walk around, working their jobs, not following conversations. Trying to fade into their clothes.

4.
One man is sorry – his colleagues,
his wife. He'd like to keep
what he has, but can no longer
accommodate the ache stapled to his organs.

5.
I am sorry. For being broken even when well. That in spite of what's been done for me, I could at any point collapse back into illness.

6.
You all consider yourselves enlightened, can call out the markers for sick.
But until you've lived in that country, its language won't fit in your mouth.

D.O. Moore is poet and translator living in Hyattsville, Maryland. Moore's work has appeared in places such as *Barrow Street, Beloit Poetry Journal*, and *RHINO*. When not writing, Moore turns wool into colorful jewelry for Wooly Bear Beads.