

AIDS and the Poetry of Healing

Technology and Medicine

The transformation is complete. My eyes
Are microscopes and cathode X-ray tubes
In one, so I can see bacteria,
Your underwear, and even through to bones.
My hands are hypodermic needles, touch
Turned into blood: I need to know your salts
And chemistries, a kind of intimacy
That won't bear pondering. It's more than love,
More weird than ESP—my mouth, for instance,
So small and sharp, a dry computer chip
That never gets to kiss or taste or tell
A brief truth like "You're beautiful," or worse,
"You're crying just like me; you are alive."

from *The Other Man Was Me: A Voyage to
the New World* (Houston, Texas:Arte Público
Press, University of Houston, 1994)

A Doctor's Personal Journey Toward Empathy

Rafael Campo teaches and practices general internal medicine at Harvard Medical School and Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston. He is the author of 1993 National Poetry Series Award winner *The Other Man Was Me: A Voyage to the New World*; the Lambda Literary Award for poetry, *What the Body Told*; and another Lambda Literary Award for his memoir, *The Poetry of Healing: A Doctor's Education in Empathy, Identity and Desire*. *Diva*, a collection of poetry is scheduled for release September, 1999.

For background information, please
consult www.cas.uiuc.edu or the Miller
Events Line, 333 1118.

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