

Caring for the Caregiver Town Hall  
March 31, 2020  
*Poems provided by Munir Shaikh*



**Sa'adi (13<sup>th</sup> c.)**

Bani Adam

*Human beings are members of a whole,  
in creation of one essence and soul.  
If one member is afflicted with pain,  
other members uneasy will remain.  
If you have no sympathy for human pain,  
the name of human you cannot retain.*

**Zeina Azzam**

What I want to say to the tulips  
that emerged, again, in March:  
*I am so grateful to count on you.*

There is nothing else to gird me  
anymore. This beauty almost  
makes me weep.

*Do you see how different  
the world is now?*

And they tell me: *no,*  
*as we know it, the world is still the same.*  
*The rains arrived this morning.*

*The nightingale keeps working so hard  
to sing. The starling wails.*

If sickness comes  
I want to be like the wise tulips,  
store energy in my heart bulb

and come back after a hard winter,  
dressed in bright turbans  
of orange and yellow and red.