

**'Poem – My Body'**

**Chng Wei Qiang**

*Your eyes were filled with immense fascination  
As you carefully opened the blue bag  
When you first saw me  
You approached me with hesitation  
Yet your eyes were filled with morbid curiosity*

*Each week, each month  
My bloodless meat was dug deep  
The reek of my formaldehyde  
Etched in your eyes, your nostrils  
The white fibers of your laboratory coat*

*With saws and scalpels  
I was reduced to a legless, armless, headless Thing  
You wondered aloud  
Who were you, mister?  
Would you have agreed to be violated this way?*

*So I send a silent cry  
As I lay before you, lifeless and mutilated  
I have been forgotten  
By the ones I was close to  
Except by Death himself*

*It is not heaven I experience, I know  
To be cut open and sliced apart  
But to know that you could perhaps one day  
Save someone from walking down the grey tunnel  
Makes me happy in my heartache*

*Take what you have learnt from me  
And you will know the answer  
Like second nature  
Of muscles, nerves and vessels  
And be joyful when you have passed*

*Study my anatomy well  
For you will be asked the questions  
About what to do, when and how it happened  
But after those have been answered  
The question will be whether*

*Yet my silent plea would fall on deaf ears  
If you fail to listen to the voice of your living patient  
Or understand his story and listen to his heart  
What is learnt would be like rain  
That falls on empty streets*