

### A Mourning song - on leprosy

a disease, which elegantly illustrates the Th1 vs. Th2 dualism, and the importance of understanding the immune system for its control – yet, the disease was largely controlled by improving living conditions and by introduction of drug combination therapy, before any effective vaccine was developed

1. I walk the floor by night so 'lone  
When patients all to bed have gone,  
Can hardly hear the'r mourning.  
The first repeats: poor me, poor me!  
The second adds: Oh Lord, let it be!  
How oft' go back to my couch,  
»Before Your grace may reach out«?
2. The first disfigured: sore on sore.  
The second walks on toes no more.  
The third is mute – only sighing.  
The fourth day-light for always is banned.  
The fifth for ever lost nose and hand.  
Five senses, no more to offer:  
« Behold! And recon' what we suffer! »
3. Inside Sct. Georges's Ho-os-pital  
by hundreds, lepers waiting shall,  
for leaving and re-lieving,  
this Earthen Valley o-of dis-grace,  
and for the Farther a-and His grace,  
the'r souls shall stand exalted,  
» disfigurerings, sufferings halted «!

A translation by I.B. of 'En Klagesang' with 24 verses, by Peder Olsen Feidie, patient at Sct. George's Leprosarium (Skt. Jørgens Hospital), Bergen, Norway, ca. 1820

#### Originale norske udgave, vers 11-13

11. Jeg gaar paa Gulvet af og til,  
naar alting er i Huset still',  
da høres Sørgetoner.  
Den ene raaber Ak og Vee,  
Den anden klager sig dermed  
at han maa gaae til Senge.  
Ak, Herre Gud! hvorlænge.

12. Den ene haver Saar i Saar,  
den Anden han paa Krykker gaaer,  
den Tredie kan ei tale,  
den Fjerde kan ei Dagen see,  
den Femte har ei Hænderne,  
Saa kan Enhver vel vide,  
Hva Ondt vi her maa lide.

13. I Sanct Jørgens Hospital,  
ja over hundred er i Tal,  
som venter paa at løses.  
O Helligaand vær Styremand,  
og før os saa til Himlens Land.  
Did Sjelene vil gange,  
der løses alle fangne.