SHADES OF IGNORANCE AND
THE IGNORANCE CORNER

Despite remarkable technologic advances
over the past several decades, basic
understanding of most human diseases, in-
cluding their prevention and treatment, re-
mains rudimentary. Scientific ideas are con-
tinuously evolving, and the wisdom of today
may become the folly of tomorrow or vice-
versa. The discipline of lymphology and ly-
mphologic disorders is replete with its own ex-
amples of ignorance, shading from the likely
to the improbable, whether in the mysteries
of its intricate structure, tissue fluid-lymph
dynamics, immune reactivity of lymph
nodes, lymphomyeloid cellular streams, odd
constellations of congenital lymphatic syn-
dromes, or the sequelae of peripheral and
visceral lymphostasis. Accordingly, the bienn-
ial ISL Congress and the official journal
LYMPHOLOGY should not only dissemi-
nate up-to-date information about the lym-
phatic system but also should serve as a
sounding-board for provocative ideas aimed
at penetrating the vast ignorance of human
biology. Fascination with ignorance, the mir-
ror image of knowledge, is traceable to the
ancients and specifically to Socrates, whose
philosophical wonderings focused both on
the content of the unknown as well as the
methods (Socratic dialogue) to gain greater
understanding of the unknown, including
ourselves. To initiate this new LYMP-
HOLOGY feature—the IGNORANCE
CORNER, we offer a philosophical-
historical background of its terrain as well
as the poetic musings of a clinical
parasitologist to elucidate the many "shades
of ignorance", both as a positive and
negative force. In the future, we welcome
brief articles dealing with, in philosopher
Ann Kerwin's words, "what we know we
don't know, what we don't know we don't
know, and what we think we know but
don't," about various aspects of the lym-
phatic system from the point of view of the
basic and clinical scientist as well as the
medical practitioner.

Marlys H. Witte
Charles L. Witte
IGNORANCE

Ignorance is a lethargic inertia of the mind
A blindfold that obscures and hinders comprehension
Is vice, a crime and root of evil and misfortune
Unpardonable outrage, unworthy human excellence!

Ignorance is invisible dam that holds as a Titan,
The flow of curiosity for discovery...for learning!
It deprives a man of freedom and the right to exert volition
Promoting prejudice, deception, pride and superstition.

Subdued is the blindness of a man with defective vision,
For his is guided by the flame of his enlightenment.
While ignorance as self-imposed mental bondage
Is endless night of eternal darkness!

With mortal blow, ignorance severs mind and flesh.
When a man chooses to exist instead of living
Reinquishing his right as a dutiful partaker
Of the active energy that fills the Universe!

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IGNORANCE

Ignorance! Thou art, but a mind in ceaseless flow,
In constant famish for a delightful morsel,
And endless search to quench thy thirst.

Ignorance! Thou art a wondrous wheel in perpetual motion,
Unquenchable desire, and mighty force alive in man,
For challenge, for wonder, for discovery and inquiry.

Ignorance! Thou art as a traveler in arid land,
Yearning, praying, pleading for a drop of rain
To wet his parched lips and mitigate his thirst.

Ignorance! Wasn't thy eagerness to fill thy cup,
Why Prometheus stole fire from Heaven,
And Minerva bequested her wisdom to mankind?

Ignorance and knowledge; thou twin sisters!
Persuade the Universe and the Celestial Sphere
One fostering curiosity, the other satisfying it.

Ignorance! Thou art fathomless ocean, always in motion
Where rivers of knowledge endless flow,
Yet, its wealth, seems never to overflow thy cup!