Poem          Brawn or brains

Mycobacterium reigns?
Among the captains of bacteria all,
My name stands prominently tall,
Lungs for me are heaven on earth;
Cunning and strong I am by birth.

Not every cough is due to my presence,
Fever weight loss I question even an expert existence,
On treatment for four weeks I put my head down;
You have no idea even in the smartest of the town.

And, as my latest version arrives;
Multi-drug resistance, extensively drug-resistant, totally drug resistant my new clones,
I send them to remote locations;
To feast on every cell and zone.

Acid fast is what you connote me! Hey;
It’ll tolerate anything: come what may,
Hopping from one slide to another,
Thou shall be my slave forever.

Thou shall treat me intensively with four drugs,
Or shall continuously with two drugs,
But mind you ill spread my wings;
Defaultingly, from your side if I get shrugs.
My colony, the strength I felt,
X rays in the past I easily dealt,
Sputum examination, culture, drug susceptibility testing, GeneXpert,
Lowenstein-Jensen;
Coffins of yours I have already smelt.

You wait for the morning sample;
I plan your future overnight pink rods against a blue background,
Thou shall definitely miss due to oversight.
My mishaps I flourish,
HIV and me opportunistically nourish,
My brethren travel even to areas where there is no air;
Brains, joints, genitalia, spine, meninges do you think anything ill spare.

Your failures stepping stones to my success;
In your deepest nightmares I still remain,
Even death that departs sole mates can’t separate us;
Thy body and even soul neither peaceful nor serene.

Brawn or brains and years pass but I am the same;
Newborn or old, rich or poor, mannered or vagabond, muscular or lame,
Thou shall revise the programme millions of times,
For centuries my terror shall reign.

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