

**Code Yellow**  
**By Kushal Kadakia**

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“Go back to where you came from,  
Chinese virus scum”

Taken aback, I tried to engage —  
but as I approached, he averted his gaze.

Pandemics pervert our perspective  
They turn our identities into invectives

I thought he'd look at me, a doctor, and see a hero  
Instead, he looked at me, and saw Patient Zero

His taunt echoed in my ears as I entered the clinic  
I looked in the mirror and felt like a cynic

Seeing my red blood, white coat, blue scrubs  
Wondering how I was not American enough.