



---

2021

## A Gross Anachronism

Steven Luria Ablon

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.butler.edu/thenorthmeridianreview>

---

### Recommended Citation

Luria Ablon, Steven (2021) "A Gross Anachronism," *The North Meridian Review*. Vol. 2 : Iss. 1 , Article 18.  
DOI: 10.7825/2769-5115.1054  
Retrieved from: <https://digitalcommons.butler.edu/thenorthmeridianreview/vol2/iss1/18>

This Prose is brought to you for free and open access by Digital Commons @ Butler University. It has been accepted for inclusion in The North Meridian Review by an authorized editor of Digital Commons @ Butler University. For more information, please contact [digitalscholarship@butler.edu](mailto:digitalscholarship@butler.edu).

---

**Steven Luria Ablon**, poet and adult and child psychoanalyst, teaches child psychiatry at Massachusetts General Hospital and publishes widely in academic journals. His poems have appeared in numerous anthologies and magazines such as the *Brooklyn Review*, *Ploughshares*, and the *Princeton Arts Review*. He has published five full collections of poetry including *Tornado Weather* (Mellen Poetry Press, 1993), *Flying over Tasmania* (Fithian Press, 1997), *Blue Damsels* (Peter E. Randall Publisher, 2005), *Night Call* (Plain View Press, 2011), and, most recently, *Dinner in the Garden* (Columbia, South Carolina, 2018).

---

### **A Gross Anachronism**

I am a physician, taking your pulse,  
pumping the ball for your blood pressure,  
warming my stethoscope before I listen  
to your heart, asking you to breathe deeply,  
hold your breath as I percuss your lungs.

Now I am a doctor of screens, I visit you  
on zoom, you enter my waiting room,  
you are flat on the screen, your voice  
electronic, I don't know when you will  
stop talking. I don't know what you wear

from the waist down, what shoes. I no longer  
touch you. Is this the oath of Maimonides  
that I took 50 years ago, this technology,  
a mere thread of the tapestry medicine,  
an anachronism of virus and social distancing?