

Jana Šmardová: What tumors teach us

In *What Tumors Teach Us*, Jana Šmardová mines molecular, cellular, and developmental biology and finds compelling insights applicable to human behavior and our social pathologies.

Cheating and selfishness are traits of tumor cells. These same traits underlie so many social ills, such as poverty, homelessness, addiction, hatred, racism, violence. Vigilance and layers of responsibility are required to maintain a healthy human society, as are layers of cooperation and generosity.

Šmardová realizes that oncogenesis is an inevitable – in a sense *normal* – feature of human biology that share features in common with other complex systems, including human society. Despite living with advancing cancer as she wrote this remarkable book, Šmardová's message is hopeful. She calls for vigilance and responsibility in service of human society and life.

Contemporary social ills, such as poverty, homelessness, addiction, hatred, racism, violence are also sustained by failures of cooperation and flagrant sins of cheating and selfishness.

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