

The Autism Mantra  
Rama Cousik, Ph.D. Candidate  
Indiana University, Bloomington

Autism Asperger's spectrum of disorders  
Atypical autism PDD (NOS)  
Savant autistic  
Idiosyncratic eccentric

More than enough labels  
To give me a nervous tic!

Rocking flapping tip toeing  
Spinning stimming persevering  
Echolalia puzzle mania  
OCD insomnia

Methinks the world is affected  
With acute paranoia!

Selective reaction  
Photographic imitation  
Hidden emotion  
Musical intonation

Boundless imagination  
Not hallucination!

Frontal lobes  
Who knows  
Amygdyla  
Phobia

Take a break or you may  
Get dyspepsia!

Mindblindedness  
Weak central coherence  
Executive dysfunction  
Auditory processing

Chaotic theories  
Think overstimulation?

Sensory integration

Chelation  
Facilitative communication  
Medication

Without any of these  
Am I doomed to damnation?

Casein free gluten free  
Allergy mercury  
Music therapy horse therapy  
Canine therapy dolphin therapy

Leave those poor animals alone  
If you ask me!

Brushing Holding TEACCH squeeze machine  
PRT REI marijuana megavitamin  
Daily Life ABA Floortime Option  
Special education General education

(I) understand you mean well  
But do think about my avocation

Social skills training  
Behavior modification  
Speech modulation  
Auditory integration

All are nothing but  
Fruits of civilization!

MMR  
Trigger  
Culture  
Disaster

What were you thinking?  
Leo Kanner? Hans Asperger?

Also see my strengths  
Not only my weaknesses  
Leave me alone  
If you can't do that

A curse a blessing  
Don't bemoan!

Autos means self, yeah! sure  
Oblivious to your world  
(You) think I need a cure  
Your line of reasoning's a tad obscure

I prefer to be me  
Enigmatic, but secure!

**Rama Cousik** is a 3rd year Doctoral student in Special Education at IU Bloomington. Rama has worked with children with developmental disabilities for 20 years, 6 of which were with children with autism. Rama is doing a minor in Ethnomusicology. Her interests are in the teacher and in children. Rama is exploring the use of creative and performing arts in teaching children with varied learning styles. Rama believes that all children can learn, if only the teacher knows different ways of teaching them. She has adopted the motto, "Label jars, not people."