

Intern in Winter

Benji Perin, MD

What a privilege, what a trial
 this stripping down to spirit and shell
 strange untethering from all we've been
 threads that stitch us whole, undone
 together in the upside-down of
 no-day
 day-night
 Turkey-Christmas-New Year's
 dinner on a tray
 we gained a new sense,
 somewhere between sight and hope
 scent and despair
 to touch
 feel the fabric of all we do
 texture of smoke, beautiful trickery
 excuse me a moment
 while I set about my task:
 not to write orders,
 no physical exam,
 but spin a just story
 from a throng of ragged strands
 Once, flipping back to days
 a blessed ray of morning light
 stopped
 me
 and it came to me
 like the clearest memory of a dream:
 Healing is the writing we do
 to make illness and dying a story worth believing.



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