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The Gift of a Stranger

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The Gift of a Stranger

Cover Page Footnote

Thank you to all those who have made the sacrifice so that others may learn. Thank you to all the teachers and families of the ones lost who gave everything to make our realities possible.

The Gift of a Stranger

There is a moment of passage
where we establish our passion.

Where what began as a flicker feels the fragrance of air.

Would that flame be extinguished?

Or might the fire begin there?

There are gifts that evade measure
elusive to compare.

That is the time we collect and the lives that we bare.

It causes creases and crevices, creating impressions in our skin.

From the bicycle off which you fell.

On to the breath that presses beneath the surface of your lips.

Our bodies they tell stories.

of the errors we commit.

Yet within them lies resilience and the evidence that we lived.

There was a decision that was made.

A final gift to convey

To an unknowing stranger.

A collective message relayed.

As you scrub down our tables

and you raise up your blade

take a moment to picture what once pumped through our veins.



The cold breeze and wind against our skin.

The tears we felt streaming caught the indentation above our chins
awe struck from the beauty
of the mountains and the clouds.

We ran out of breath expelling echoes from our mouths.

The obstacles we faced
seemed senseless in their wake.

And when our loved ones passed we experienced agonizing pain.

Yet eventually the time developed order from mistake.

Our children were born

And their love returned us to place.

Do you remember the moment you held my heart in your hands?

It was there that us two forged a much greater plan.
For the journey before you will see suffering expand
with the weight of world making it difficult to stand.

Patients will pass

just as my memory will fade.

But I pray this last gift creates an everlasting wave.

We are The Effectors of cause
and representatives of change.

Granting knowledge to generations

Intertwining together the oceans the fate

No matter where I may go,
no matter what I will become,
a piece of my present will build a future filled with love.

For everything I ever was
is with those that I touched.
And it is you that now carries our fire within your blood.

ANGEL MARQUEZ SERVES AS AN OFFICER IN THE U.S ARMY AND IS A SECOND YEAR MEDICAL STUDENT. HE ORIGINALLY WROTE THIS PIECE FOR THE 2018 CADAVER MEMORIAL AND SINCE THEN WENT ON TO BECOME AN ANATOMY FELLOW. HIS INTENT BEHIND THE POEM WAS TO RESPECT THE GIFT THAT'S GIVEN TO MEDICAL STUDENTS AROUND THE WORLD AND EMPHASIZE THAT EVEN AFTER LIFE HAS PASSED US OUR ACTIONS CAN STILL INSPIRE GENERATIONS TO COME.



▶ ARTIST STATEMENT: ANGEL MARQUEZ

- ▶ *As we are taught in our physics classes, energy is neither created nor destroyed it is simply transferred. Whether that energy manifests itself as power to fuel an engine or as knowledge to fuel a life of passion and intimacies, the energy influences one in the same. I simply seek one thing out of life, that those who come into contact with my energy find themselves transformed in the subtlest of ways so that they may, in turn, inspire another so that the cycle continues on and on.*