

Complacency

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Days of toil and fractious action
Considered decisions and firm direction
Relationships built and challenge made
Best made plans and future laid
The daily routine of workplace motion
Hides a fear via managed emotion

Aching body and arthritic limbs
Bruising occurs at slightest whim
Bleeding gums a deadly surprise
Evidence of sickness in my eyes
Clearly seen by those around me
I hide from them a leukaemia

Return to a place of medication
Engage the experts in consultation
Blood let once, yet who would guess
It becomes routine for a year no less
Daily routine of work and play
Displaced in an instant by hospital stay

Initial reaction is to fight not flee
Impossible to accept that this is me
Reject the sentence of a terminal outcome
Challenge prognosis with pugnacious welcome
Suspend all works and activity
Engage with the family to set me free

Listen and follow the medical direction
Prepare mind and body for gross exception
Take the medicine not a simple pill
Support it fully with an iron will
Face the cycles of chemotherapy
Succeed in them all to be happy

Assimilate the death of cells
Endure the impacts to be well
Loss of thought and able motion
An automaton in all but notion
Recognise the love for me
Support their fight to set me free

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The time passed so fast for me
I can't recall shared philosophy
For those around me time stalled
Their lives in stasis not enthralled
Now I experience proud remission
I must repay my deadly commission

But daily life brings complacency
To regard the past with antipathy
Too easy to accept each day anew
As a right and not an earned virtue
And always I feel I must rejoice,
And never ever waste a choice

Yet this responsibility is a torment
A challenge unfit for comment
As oft I sit in joy or anguish
Unknown unseen to those who wish
Me well, who hope and strive
With love and support to keep me live

And at such times memory prompts me
My biggest enemy could yet be complacency
For there is no greater gift that could be earned
Than a life of love taken then returned