

FROM THE INSIDE



Forgive me for not letting you go

Dimitri Gusmao-Flores^{1,2,3*}

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Dad

Unhappy sunrise. At first light
darkness covered my soul and sight.
Your sleep, my relief, came to an end.
In your oppressive pain, your lungs inflamed.

In bed you lay wearing your eyeglass frames,
You gasped for air, yet your smile remained.
A comforting flame
that froze to the touch of your icy hands.

I kept you warm, I thought, with my blanket and
embrace.
But time, it seemed, kept another pace.

Dad

I left for no more than a moment,
To wipe my tears,
To return in strength,
To fill your life with mine,
To overcome our fears, I believed, at length.
But your tired heart could no longer wait
And in that very moment you met your fate.

Those of us remaining, we chose to fight
a battle that was not yours.
Pushing on your blazing chest,
Blowing in your tired lungs,
Pumping on your failing heart,
And for a short while

Your life swayed on a fragile thread
held gently by Atropos.

Dad

Why open your chest to fix what we no longer could?
Why pump on your heart when it no longer would?
I wanted to contest death
and I believed I should.
I wanted more, not less
time to gaze in your thoughtful eyes.
How could I accept the end of such a life?

And yet, when on that day the sun does rise,
When comes the time to stop and recognize
what no longer helps,
One also learns what does.
Even the darkest night for beauty vies
When with memories of dawn does it arrive.

Dad

We cut the thread too late, forgive me.
Our moment for farewell I failed to see.

But know
that in that moment before you left:
I learned to know that a moment of grace
Was the one I spent caressing your face,
That privileged I was to hear your words
(and know that you heard mine).

That the joy you gave my aching heart
With each and every smile
Are memories you left behind
And these will not depart.

*Correspondence: dimitrigusmao@gmail.com

¹ Programa de Pós-Graduação em Medicina e Saúde, Faculdade de Medicina da Bahia, Universidade Federal da Bahia, Rua Dr. Augusto Viana, s/n – Canela, Salvador, BA 40301-155, Brazil

Full author information is available at the end of the article

Author details

¹ Programa de Pós-Graduação em Medicina e Saúde, Faculdade de Medicina da Bahia, Universidade Federal da Bahia, Rua Dr. Augusto Viana, s/n – Canela, Salvador, BA 40301-155, Brazil. ² Unidade de Terapia Intensiva, Hospital da Mulher, Salvador, BA, Brazil. ³ Unidade de Cuidados Intensivos, Hospital da Cidade, Salvador, BA, Brazil.

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