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Wind whips.
Flag snap raps its mast
like striker on prayer bowl.
Crispy oak leaves
somersault across cement.

Freshly falling snow, fluffing
soft powder: pure white.
Calm, quiet . . .

Sprigs of fragile green above.
Flecks of colored crocus
below.
Pungent earth
alive again.

Blacktop shimmers.
Dress shirt sticks.
Cicadas, unseen,
click cacophonous.

And I go
every day
in and out.
Tomorrow and the next and the one after that.
In again, and then back out.
A rhythm. A routine.
From student to apprentice to master,
chasing cancer, coronaries and, now, COVID.

And where I go
steely-eyed glass
unforgiving concrete.
Non-plussed by it all . . .
inside
or
out.

J Gen Intern Med 36(4):1110

DOI: 10.1007/s11606-021-06619-6

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Acknowledgments: The author thanks Kimberly Myers, PhD, Penn State Medical College, for her helpful feedback on this piece.

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Compliance with ethical standards:

Conflict of Interest: The author declares that he does not have a conflict of interest.

Publisher's Note: Springer Nature remains neutral with regard to jurisdictional claims in published maps and institutional affiliations.

Received December 8, 2020

Accepted January 7, 2021

Published online February 9, 2021