



A message to my family

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There will come a day
When my arms, that held you tightly to my chest
Will lie listless by my side;
When my eyes, that sparkled with joy at sight of you
Will cease to have their light;
When my body, once strong and bustling with life,
Now pierced by needles and tubes,
Will lie lifeless by your side.

Surrounded by the living and the dying, you will have a choice:
To let this become my deathbed or to be a cradle of life;
To let me burn to ashes or to be the raging fire of another's life.
At that time I ask you to do this:
Let not my body be devoured by worms;
Let not my molecules perish into oblivion.
For even though I won't have the face you know,
And even though my brain will cease to function,
My heart and my vision can live on.

Let another's joy gleam through my eyes;
And in his joy, let my cells feel the freedom they once knew.
Give away my heart, so that it may once again
Beat fervently with the same love I felt.
Give my kidneys to a father, who, surviving on machines
Can no longer play with his child every week, as I once did.
Take away every bone if you must
So that a child can run to his mother's warm embrace.

Let not my life burn to ashes that will lie at the bottom of a river;
Let not this white mattress, these white lights and walls
Be the last thing that I see.
Let me beat as a fierce fire, as steadfast as a star;
Let me be for someone what you were for me..
My life...

Remember this message,
A message to my family.

Poet's disclosure

This poem was written for an elocution competition held at Maulana Azad Medical College, New Delhi, on 28-Nov-2019 and was presented at the 10th Indian Organ Donation Day, organised by the Directorate General of Health Services, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India at Vigyan Bhavan on 30-Nov-2019.