

THE GIFT
POETRY
JANICE KIRK

THE GIFT

GOD GAVE ME CANCER FOR CHRISTMAS ONE YEAR.
AND FROM THE BEGINNING I WASN'T QUITE CLEAR,
ON WHY HE CHOSE ME FOR THAT TERRIBLE CURSE.
I WOULD HAVE PREFERRED SOME COLOGNE OR A PURSE.
INSTEAD I GOT NEWS I WOULD RATHER NOT HEAR.
THAT I WOULD HAVE CANCER FOR CHRISTMAS THAT YEAR.

WITH THE DISEASE I GOT BENEFITS TOO.
I HAD PIN CUSHION BLOOD TESTS UNTIL I WAS BLUE.
FROM DOCTOR, TO DOCTOR, TO DOCTOR I WENT.
I WORE CRINGE WORTHY GOWNS WITH POSTERIOR VENTS.
I WAS POKED AT AND PRODDED, CUT OPEN, EXPLORED,
STAPLED AND EX-RAYED AND SLID OFF BACKBOARDS,
AND ANYTHING ELSE MY BLUE CROSS COULD AFFORD.
WHEN GOD GAVE ME CANCER FOR CHRISTMAS ONE YEAR.

AND AS I INDULGED IN SELF PITY AND PAIN,
I FELT MANY CHANGES TOO HARD TO EXPLAIN.
MY FAMILY AND LOVED ONES ALL GATHERED AROUND.
THEIR HELP AND SUPPORT BEGAN TO ABOUND.
MY LIVING ROOM FILLED UP WITH CARDS AND FRESH FLOWERS.
AS GOD BEGAN SHOWING ME WONDERFUL POWERS
OF HEALING AND COMFORT THROUGH TRIALS AND TEARS,
AND THE PURPOSE OF DEALING WITH CANCER THAT YEAR.

I FOUND I HAD LESSONS OF LIFE YET TO LEARN.
AS I WATCHED MY LIFE TAKE A ROUNDABOUT TURN
ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTY DEGREES IN REVERSE.
THIS CANCER TURNED OUT TO BE BLESSING, NOT CURSE.
BECAUSE AS MY LORD BEGAN PULLING ME IN,
I STARTED DEPENDING COMPLETELY ON HIM,
FOR LOVE AND COMPASSION, FOR LIFE, AND FOR HEALTH.
THE SCOPE OF HIS LESSON FOR ME HELD GREAT WEALTH.
AS HIS PLAN FOR MY LIFE BECAME SOMEWHAT MORE CLEAR,
AS TO WHY I GOT CANCER FOR CHRISTMAS THAT YEAR.

SO, IF YOU GET A PRESENT YOU DIDN'T REQUEST,
GOD MAY BE GIVING YOU ONE OF LIFE'S TESTS.
HOLD YOUR HEAD HIGH AND LIVE UP TO THE TASK,
AND GOD WILL STAND BY YOU IF YOU'LL ONLY ASK.
I KNOW I CAN LIVE OUT MY LIFE WITHOUT FEAR,

BECAUSE CANCER GAVE ME GOD FOR CHRISTMAS ONE YEAR.