


## Poetry

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As patients near the end of their lives, they often reflect on their legacy, and what they will miss and what they will not miss. As a physician tending to the dying, their stories roused me to write what I will miss and what I will not miss when I myself am near death.

I will miss:

Dogs  
My daughters  
Tomorrows  
Being alive  
The stillness just before sunrise  
The chirp of the first morning bird  
The first snow  
Mountains  
The Grand Canyon  
The desert  
The smell of the desert after a rain  
Animals in their natural habitats  
Driving on a newfound rural road  
Hot showers on chilly days  
A full moon  
Seashells on the beach  
Maple syrup  
Waffles  
Bananas  
Doughnuts  
Cupcakes  
Dogs

I will not miss:

Sickness  
Suffering  
Worry  
Stress  
Expectations  
Loved ones' deaths  
Visits to the dentist  
Sick animals  
War  
Mass shootings  
Poverty  
Racism  
Hate  
Greed  
Arrogance  
Abuse  
Prostate exams  
Colonoscopies  
Poor vision  
Bad dreams  
Lies  
Money

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