## Palliative and Supportive Care

# When I grow up I want to be back here

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#### **Poetry**

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David H. Xiang, Harvard Medical School, 25 Shattuck Street, Boston, MA 02115, USA. Email: dxiang@hms.harvard.edu To be your smile and not afraid when it goes. To be the breath heard after four days of troubled reconciliation. To be the thought coming before that you still ignore because really it's just filler space to make this desire more real. To be your coaster on the wood table, to feel this residual warmth fading away. To be your shadow now unattended and to be OK with it because the sun is up only half the day. To be that book turned to page 43 because sometimes you wish to become air, and take no shape because there is inborn defiance against the pressure to be rational. To be the ask for the reason why, and then

to be the answer afterwards, tossed in the shrubbery when you aren't looking.

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