

Hello, Stranger

Adonai Paz

The University of Texas Medical Branch–John Sealy School of Medicine

Hello, stranger. We welcome you here,
into the boisterous ordered disorder
of mighty compressions
to revive your frail heart.

We are intertwined clock gears,
harmonious parts of a lifesaving choreography.
With each set of hands,
your chest sinks and rises.
The ebb and flow
of a battle against death.

We search for a heartbeat,
a secret unwilling to be discovered.
Reluctant to oppose the
alluring grip of deadly stillness.

Wrinkles etch your sound face,
streams erode a riverbank.
Peacefully shut, your eyes remain
unaware of the encompassing spectacle.

Our incessant work, a frivolous
hollow battle against time.
We toil for what feels like a lifetime,
the futility of our labor
encapsulated in mere minutes.

Goodbye stranger, we endeavored
incessantly against your mortality.
A final farewell to you
as it is time again
to welcome another stranger.