



"One Day in May"

(May 15, 2020)

In the beginning.....

Shhh. Do you hear it? Not really.
It was a whisper, barely audible, unheard by most.
It grew to a whisper chorus, now more audible.

And then

the whisper became a rustle, soft at first.
The rustling grew louder, begging to be heard.,
gathering sound, the cause still unseen and unheeded.

Soon.....

The rustling changed to a rumble, low and menacing.
Then it became a thunderous roar, heard by all.
Gone were the whispers, the rustles, the softness.

And....

it continued to roar, a groundswell of sound,
until the roar was finally heard around the world.
And life, as we knew it, was irretrievably changed.

It was.....

a monster, moving with warp speed, invading the earth,
an invisible but deadly enemy, demanding respect.
an impartial enemy, showing no favoritism.

And....

the roar grew until the sound was deafening,
The roar was joined by the screams of sirens,
the sound of machines and feeble moans and cries.

And it....

attacked the rich, poor, young, old, sickly and healthy.
No one was safe, and still some refused to listen.
The killing continued, claiming victims every minute.

And so....

the people of the world began to listen, sometimes too late.
Our country closed, people were distanced from comfort.
Children are now enrolled in the school of life.

And....

lives were lost by the thousands, fathers, mothers, sons, daughters.
Strangers became friends, nurses became family,
Dying without family became a reality

So....

people are still dying; families are broken by grief.

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As we distanced ourselves, we came together.
We will get through this, together as one.

THIS is AMERICA and THIS is WHO WE ARE.

Betsy Chapman
April, 2020

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