The Reason

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Stephanie Lei

A Californian med student watching snow fall
described the scene while on a Skype call,
"The webcam can't capture the beauty, you see
How I wish that you were here with me"

Here in New York in cold mid-December
she sometimes forgets but tries to remember
why it is she strayed so far from home,
where the palm trees had swayed and the sun always shone

She misses the Mexican food that she loves
She can't give her two little siblings big hugs
The boyfriend she used to see every day
Is now over two thousand miles away

The kitten they bought has grown large in her absence
The people around her speak with a strange accent
She used to wear flip flops around the whole year
If she told people that, they would probably sneer,

especially now as the snow's coming down
But she won't give up now and she can't turn around
She reminds herself often of why she is there
when stress and homesickness seem too much to bear

It's for the small babies in hospital cribs
who struggle each day of their lives just to live,
for the woman who prays for the cure to her cancer,
whose kids ask her questions that pain her to answer,

for anyone out there who's broken a bone,
or children with fevers who have to stay home
It's so kids get their shots and grandpa gets his pills
to try and stave off any possible ills

It's to help people simply live life to its fullest
This is the goal that is on her to do list
Cynicism hasn't pushed this hope away
It gleams like the snow on this cold winter day