

## Seasons of Sickness

*Pill bottles line the cabinet that was once filled with treats  
Next to the keys for your scooter which hang unused  
Because work requires too much energy now  
The energy you desperately suck from the new diet fads*

*You don't take up as much room as you used to  
Clothes swallow you like leaves on the autumn trees,  
And your arms, branches of bone that threaten to snap  
I don't know if we'll make it to winter*

*They say lightning never strikes the same place twice  
I guess you were unlucky or that no faith can be put in old sayings  
We hold onto the hope that you've beat this before  
But it fades every time you visit the doctors*

*They tell us it's come back more aggressive  
Well we'll fight harder  
They tell us you're not fit enough to travel  
We'll still book the flights*

*They tell us you've got weeks to live  
And we're losing faith  
They tell us  
Everything we don't want to hear*

*What do you do with time when it's limited?  
And what is praying for the best when you don't even know what the best is?  
Questions flood our minds in amongst a turmoil of dread  
I can't even begin to imagine what you think about*

*Your head must have been off in far places  
Because you packed your bags  
And with your wife's management to guide you  
Headed overseas*

*For one glorious moment you were the well-practiced traveller  
And then the next  
Your cancer had chased you overseas  
Closed your eyes on the wonders of the world*

*It was time for you to come home*

*We gathered a parade  
Lifting prayers to the sky for your journey back  
Familiar faces filled your living room with one crucial one missing  
Only to be seen in photos and dreams now*

*We use small talk to fill the void between us and you  
Phones set to loud and minds alert  
We thought we'd have more time and now I look at the clock  
And beg the hands to stop and wait for us to catch up*

*But cancer waits for no-one*

*As you landed you took your last breath  
The message was sent out like dominoes  
We met at the plane and my brother rushed to your side  
While I cradled the only woman that brought out the youth in you*

*With a Karakia  
We farewelled your body that no longer had pain  
And with a longing for your presence to return  
We welcomed your spirit home*