

# I Am Tired

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We thought this would be over by now,  
Said the politicians, the pundits, the lobbyist in tow.  
My trepidations of what the holidays may hold  
I will not falter in my work.  
but I, I am tired.

“We’ll get you the PPE!” said the administrators with passion.  
For now, we have only a few masks to ration.  
The beds are nearing immediate capacity.  
I will not falter in my work.  
but I, I am tired.

Yet one year in, we have the equipment,  
But did we forget about those most important?  
The ones you prodded on pedestals, only to be forgotten.  
I will not falter in my work.  
but I, I am tired.

Despite the mantra, “Heroes work here.”  
Expendable, is the term more abundantly clear.  
Essential workers giving up and leaving in droves.  
I will not falter in my work.  
but I, I am tired.

The medical societies call for physician wellness.  
Congress undercuts; our salaries they menace.  
Hero a term, used to slash budgets.  
I will not falter in my work.  
but I, I am tired.

Physicians and nurses fall victim in the fight.  
Anxiety and depression, extinguish the light.  
More fall victim to those demons than corona.  
I will not falter in my work.  
but I, I am tired.

Infection rates steadily climbing.  
Trauma and medical emergencies priming.  
Do they not realize we are running out of beds?  
I will not falter in my work.  
but I, I am tired.

The city is alight; Looting, rioting, gunshots galore.  
I render aid nonetheless to those “society” abhors.  
The wounds are patched, the quality unmatched.  
I will not falter in my work.  
but I, I am tired.

There will be no triumph, no glory, no memorials.  
No songs, no ballads or laurels  
Lost relatives and occasions of time forever fleeting.  
I will not falter in my work.  
but I, I am tired.

This will pass, of that, I am sure.  
in silence, with whisper, forgotten long ago.  
But the trauma will haunt, never ever healing.  
I will not falter in my work.  
but I, I am tired.

I will not falter as this is my duty.  
To be compassion and healing for humanity.  
But my God, I only ask for continued strength,  
The burden is becoming more difficult to embrace.  
And, I am so, so tired.