

ELEVATOR RIDE

by Joe O'Connor

Picture an elevator
since there aren't any floor numbers in any area
you don't know what floor you got on at
the bottom of the section of floor is called
early onset
the middle? area of floors is called
normal time
but what about this elevator is "normal"
glancing at the top getting on area
you see the words "late onset"

I got on at "normal time"
I ask the operator on what floor I am getting off
some of those floors look pretty far away
no response is returned - seems ominous

the elevator jerks upward
take note this is no easy ride - there will be a lot of bumps
the doors open "at pity party"
there seems to be a lot of crying around a Christmas tree
then I realize this is my diagnosis date - right around Christmas
like a modern Scrooge - I wish to see no more
the silent operator yanks me back in

the elevator jerks upward again
the doors open at first fall
I find myself running with your running buddy when suddenly
my legs tangle and down I go
after a few stitches the operator pulls me back in

many stops go by
second fall
third fall
early retirement
support group
and so many clinical trial stops 47 as of right now

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up the elevator continues its journey
the doors open at "DPF Ambassador"
this is such a fun place
some of the sub floors you see are:
Leadership conference
Poetry group
pen pals
storming the capital
and sooo many new friends names to count them all would be impossible
but all of us reach out to each other and share with each other
it is a warm feeling place
I love to linger there

the next floor visited is called praise
here we find that people really find value in what I do
strangely I find myself reluctant to step out
but with a rare smile the operator pushes me out
and I hear so many thanks and accolades
that my ears really echo with compliments
still in the elevator the operator smiles as he looks on
and then he beckons me to return

upward the elevator rises
the next floor is named chorus
on this floor
you are invited join even if "you cant carry a tune in a bag"
a fun floor
one I hope to continue to visit
I notice several sub -floors arranged by visit dates
good - it looks like many visits
but once the operator beckons for you to leave

and more floors and other stuff to come...