Reflections for February

Angela L. Chandler, MD

THE DANCE

Address correspondence
and reprint requests to Dr.
Angela L. Chandler, Baptist
Neurological Associates, 1151
North State Street, Suite 404,
Jackson, MS 39202
alcmd@bellsouth.net

At 38, we are the same age.
I walk with a normal stride, arms swinging rhythmically, keeping time with my feet.
Heel-toe, heel-toe.
He dances to his own drum.
Sometimes heel-toe but often toe-toe.
Sometimes with an unexpected syncopated step that literally sweeps him off his feet.

We are the same age.
I drink coffee without thought from an unlidded cup, hoping I don't burn my tongue.
He enjoys the smell of coffee having long ago forsaken it.
Many futile attempts to pour the dark liquid down his throat ended with the fruits of that labor staining his pants.
Starched khakis that he had pressed with determination and difficulty.
Hoping he didn't burn his hand.

We are the same age.
I remember when we played in the empty lots behind our houses.
Playing tag and climbing trees.
Our imaginations creating new worlds for us.
Time standing still.
He remembers my face but not always my name.
His world is at times familiar and yet somehow very strange.
Time, like his body, has moved too fast for him.

We are the same age.
I look forward to the future I will spend with my family once my years of working are finished.
Children and grandchildren by my side.
He waits for family members to visit.
But they are no more.
Having danced their last steps one by one.
For now, he alone remains.
Until he dances no more.

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Angela L. Chandler

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