Ode by a ventilator

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I watched you
Whisked into the intensive care
Lines snaking over your body; drugs
Valiantly struggling to claw you
From death's grasp.

I grasped your breathing tube tightly as
One by one your failing organs
Succumbed to the infection
That not only ravaged your body
Defying the powers of
Science and medicine.

I watched you
Never open your eyes because
They had to keep you sedated
So you would not fight the very tube
Helping you breathe.

I exhaled
As your family approached
One by one breaking down
As they saw
How sick you were.

I felt alarmed
The day your body slowly gave up
This losing battle
When your heart decided to tender its resignation
From the one job it ever had.

I vividly remember
The moment your blood pressure dropped away
Despite all the medicines
Your heart rate slowed
Transforming from a jog to a saunter.

I watched you
As your family walked in the moment
They heard the news
And the welled up tears a grieving
Acceptance of reality.

Your heart ceased to beat
Lungs ceased to breathe
Life ceased to exist
Whilst I stood helpless
Delivering breath after breath
To your already lifeless lungs
Waiting to be switched off.

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