

Mercies

by [D. S. Martin](#) in the [July 2023](#) issue

Published on July 12, 2023

After John Donne's "Occasional Mercies"

How curious it is
wrapped in rags of time
for a child in the depth of night
to text her sorrows
to a school friend
on the planet's sunlit side
& receive an instant reply

How long her legs become
on the sky bridge striding
from winter into the summer
of Caribbean sunlight where
fruit is ripe in season

Her plane might pass over
both desert & ocean before
touching down She oversteps
spring then oversteps autumn
on the return flight
back & forth from south to north
for the heat coexists with cold
as day with night

When she's benighted wintered
frozen clouded & eclipsed
forgetful of eternal noon
what seems as bright as the moon?
But Love's legs are stronger
& so much longer simultaneously
bringing justice & mercy

with no sign of spring or fall
gradual dusk or gradual dawn