

Mercies

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

*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