Mercies

by <u>D. S. Martin</u> 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