

Warmth and Wonder

The rain poured steadily on the misty window pane,
The whistling winter wind harmonized in tune with the time
While the fireplace glowed mightily as the bright red embers
Danced majestically above the flickering flames.
The colorful patched quilt that warmed me as a boy
Draped softly to the floor doing its job once again
While a rocking chair from another era
Creaked softly in rhythm with the rain.
Hypnotized in peace, I drifted into a moment of reflection.

Years ago, the room filled quickly
As the Christmas decorations made their annual call.
The children's youthful excitement warmed our winter home
As the spirit overwhelmed them.
Her comforting flannel nightgown dragged softly on the floor,
While her sparkling eyes of green danced swiftly, struggling to take it all in.
His one-piece pajamas stretched tightly and his deep brown eyes
Reflected the wintry scenes he carefully arranged with the Christmas figurines.
Their young mother hummed songs of the season as
She quietly rearranged the room while
Their young father struggled silently to upright a tilting tree.
As their Yuletide work was completed, they cuddled tenderly
Before the warmth of the fire.
Their love and support nourished each other as they grew together
So swiftly through their youth.

Years later, the spirit of that room engulfs the soul as the Christmas trinkets,
Like an old friend, return from the past.
The little girl, now a blossoming young woman, is home for the holidays,
Knee deep in boxes as she helps her mother unpack their Christmas memories.
That little boy, now a quietly emerging adolescent with an ever-deepening voice,
Sprawls across the floor as he helps his father adjust that ever-tilting tree.
The wonder of this season brings them together once again.
Their memories of the past and their visions of the future
Will unite and comfort them for all of time.

May this Christmas season bring you a moment of peace with the past.
May you cherish your loved ones while
Holding your memories close to warm the spirit of your soul.

Frank Allocco-Christmas 1992