

The Treasures of Our Lives

As another Christmas season descends upon too swiftly upon us
The rapid pace of the outside world continues to overwhelm the soul
As we rush from jobs to school, to basketball games, to crowded stores and malls.
Caught up in the struggle, getting lost in the pace,
Losing the battle to find the time to enjoy the things that really matter,
Trying to reflect and enjoy a world so determined to speed by us.

Consumed by the frenzied pace, our now independent family members struggle
To coordinate schedules and find the time to gather together,
Decorate the tree and add some holiday cheer.
The traditional argument of when and where to buy a tree finally dissipates
And the decorations slowly make their way down from their season hibernation
Where they will once again sit patiently awaiting their time to shine.

Slowly, our family congregates to transform the familiar living room.
Tiny white lights weave their way carefully through the tapered tree.
One by one the colorful ornaments take their place in a unique Christmas puzzle
Eventually to be joined by a variety of home spun trinkets from
School Christmas craft days that seemed to be here just yesterday.
Each one tells their own story as reflections of another time are shared.

Gifts from school friends recall their younger days of innocence while
Memories of a simpler time elicit smiles and laughter.
Sports ornaments of various shapes and sizes allow us
To revisit the special years and the dedicated youngsters we were blessed to teach.
They glisten and shine on the proud tree just as
The youthful faces of the givers glow so brightly in our minds.

As a parade of mementos from relatives and friends steadily emerge from the cardboard boxes
Their spirit and love graces our tree just as they have done to our lives.
With each thoughtful placement of respect a special story is told
As their profound impact on our lives sparkles in our souls.
Finally, this tree filled with memories is topped off with a silver star just like the one that
Rested regally above the white and wintry tree of a lifetime ago.

Music boxes of different shapes and sizes arise from their yearly slumber
Slowly coming to life as they unwind and play their circular tunes.
Families from a continent away join our Christmas party as
A ceramic tree from grandma, a red boot from an aunt,
A nativity from a godmother and historic Santa from a favorite friend
Take the same positions of esteem in our home as the givers have taken in our lives.

As the warmth and security of their love joins the laughter and
Emotion that has quickly consumed our room
We enjoy a task that seemed so tedious just an hour ago.
We realize and understand the lessons and wonders of the holidays
And the importance of appreciating the gifts and the symbols
Of love and family that exist around us each day, if only we would take a moment to remember.

May this holiday season provide us with the appreciation, respect and devotion
For all of the loved ones who have tenderly touched our souls.
May our lives continue to be blessed and enriched by their daily presence
Through a treasured memory or the ongoing gift of friendship
As we never lose sight of the special gifts of this season and
The impact of all who have written their chapter in the story of our lives.