

## *A Christmas Blessing*

The evening fell so swiftly as the fog faded in from its daily respite,  
The commuter rush swirled like the raging wind as he struggled to shield himself from the cold.  
The night fell as harshly as his year had in this time of economic recession.  
As he walked on through the winding staircase streets,  
Depressed by the season and the changing of his world,  
The local newspaper told of the kidnapping and death of a lovely little girl.  
The radio blared on about a senseless shooting on a commuter train in the east while  
Across the Atlantic, two youths dragged and tortured a screaming young toddler.  
“What a hopeless, hateful world”, he muttered as he continued his journey to nowhere.  
“Sometimes I think it’s not worth the pain to exist in a world so full of hate.”  
Sitting by the Bay, he finally rested from the daily bombardment of the negativism in our world.  
He lost track of time and space as he cuddled quietly beneath the filling Golden Gate.  
The hum of the motor cars above him rushing home for the holidays, hypnotized him,  
Finally inducing the sweet slumber of escape.  
As he tossed and turned in the midst of the restless evening, he was greeted by a ghostly guest.  
“Hopeless, hateful world? his visitor inquired, “Do not feel alone, there is love all around you.  
Come with me on a journey through the night.”  
As he joined hands with this imposing man of dreams, the whistling wind  
Lifted them high above the city lights that softly faded into the swirling clouds.  
Through decorated windows, they watched a young mother contentedly nursing her infant,  
Quietly rocking her as she sings the season’s songs.  
Her labor of birth, well worth the struggle, as she dedicates her life to her child.  
Back east a family quietly gathers from all over the country  
To say “goodbye” to a loving husband and father.  
United in their grief, their love for him and each other shines like a giant candle throughout the blackened sky.  
In the suburbs of the city, a classroom of young children buzzes proudly  
As they eagerly count their graciously sacrificed allowances.  
Their pooled resources will adopt a needy family to improve their holiday.  
In a hospital on a hilltop in the city, an elderly mother lies next to her AIDS inflicted adult son,  
Gently rocking him to sleep assuring him that she will love him forever and ever.  
“So easy to complain and give up never appreciating the beauty and strength that’s all around us.  
Fill your heart with love and let it overflow into the lives of others  
And you will receive riches far beyond those of mortal men.”  
Overwhelmed, he struggled for words through the thickening lump in his throat.  
He raised his hands slowly, gently wiping away his tears  
As he finally understood the overwhelming power of love.  
A lifetime of lessons later, he awakened from his journey.  
The sun slowly raised his head beyond the stretching mountains  
And a lone dove sailed swiftly away leaving him with  
The Christmas Blessing of a new perspective and an eagerness to appreciate  
The majesty and uniqueness of every breaking day.

**Frank Allocco-Christmas 1993**