

Be Grateful in the Absence

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There were many things I took for granted
I thought that nothing in life could take them away to be candid
Thanksgiving and Christmas make up the holiday season I long for
They will not be the same this year for sure

The COVID-19 virus has taken over 2020
And because of it the holiday season has never felt so empty
In 2020 the day of giving thanks has never meant more

I am thankful for...

Having family time
(Even if it only includes downtime)
Traveling wherever I please
(Without getting tested to put my mind at ease)
Hugging my grandparents
(Who knows how long time permits)
Seeing my cousins only once a year
(Even if I must use zoom to see their cheer)
Sharing a meal
(For the six feet I must deal)
Laughing around the table
(Makes the distance feel superficial)

Feeling comforted around those I love

(Is second guessed which is tough)

Shopping on Black Friday morning

(Isn't safe which makes the day boring)

Spending time with friends after coming home from college

(Isn't advised with great knowledge)

This year has taught me a lot

And being grateful is something that will never be forgot

Nothing will come close to the feeling of desolation

When we must spend a holiday in isolation

Away from family that I haven't seen in months or even a year

On a holiday that is about family time and soon to be about spreading holiday
cheer

The news keeps saying to spend the holidays at home

But my heart tells me that I shouldn't spend the holidays alone

Is the gathering of family worth the risk?

If something happened, it would ruin the holiday bliss

I am trying to be grateful in the absence of certainty

Even when there is little security

It's hard to be thankful for things that are taken away

But all I can do is pray

For a vaccine in 2021 that will make Covid-19 go away