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**A Christmas Miracle Pantoum: Weighing Reality and Hope, A Physician Ponders the Miracles of
Medicine and the Season**

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Abstract: When diagnosing a patient with a rapidly progressive dementia around Christmas, a physician, weighing both reality and hope, ponders the miracles of medicine and the season

Between reality and hope, who am I to question
The cortical ribbon dancing through your brain
Your family praying for a Christmas miracle
Visions of sugar plums

The cortical ribbon dancing through your brain
Up on the house top, click click click
Visions of sugar plums
Faithful friends who are dear to us, will be near to us once more

Up on the housetop, click click click
Triphasic waves on EEG
Faithful friends who are dear to us, will be near to us once more,
Including your deceased nana baking cookies in the hallway

Triphasic waves on EEG
Every time a bell rings, an angel gets its wings
Including your deceased nana baking cookies in the hallway
In your conversations with us

Every time a bell rings, an angel gets its wings
Your wife asks if we have any other possible explanation
In our conversations with you, we
Tell tales of 14-3-3 and RT-QuIC

Your wife asks if we have any other possible explanation
Down through the chimney with good St. Nick
Tell tales of 14-3-3 and RT-QuIC
Your son wonders if we can try a Hail Mary pass treatment

Down through the chimney with good St. Nick
I have no new answers for you
Your son wonders if we can try a Hail Mary pass treatment
I pass the giftshop display of the Virgin with Child

I have no new answers for you
As I finish my shift, step into the silent night
I pass the giftshop display of the Virgin with Child,
Santa Claus is coming to town

As I finish my shift, step into the silent night
I think of Ms. C, ambulatory with 5/5 strength, disregarding her cervical cord astrocytoma halo

Santa Claus is coming to town
My conversation with Mr. L, language spared after complete left MCA infarct¹

I think of Ms. C, ambulatory with 5/5 strength, disregarding her cervical cord astrocytoma halo
Defying expectations
My conversation with Mr. L, language spared after complete left MCA infarct¹
These miracles are not lost to me

Defying expectations
'Tis the season where all things are possible
These miracles are not lost to me
So hang your stockings and say your prayers

'Tis the season where all things are possible
Your family praying for a Christmas miracle
So hang your stockings and say your prayers
Between reality and hope, who am I to question

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