

To Fall and Rise Again

On morning rounds
a favorite patient collapses before you
and as you struggle to catch him,
your knees buckle
and you kneel beside him on the floor.
You hold him as part of him dies,
as others who are dying there
but you walk away stronger
for having touched him.

Perhaps it is all they need from you:
to fall a bit
when they begin to fall
and to rise again with them.
Sometimes, it is what you need
to rise again
from your own despair,
to remember who you once were,
who you are.

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