



A Poet's Last Will & Testament

I, a man diagnosed with cancer, being of sound mind but not of sound body,
do hereby bequeath to the world the following in the event of my demise:

For those without kindness,
I leave my compassion.
To those who cannot see the pain & suffering of others,
I leave my empathy.
For those who only see the differences between us,
I bestow tolerance.
For those who are selfish & greedy,
I give to you my charity.
To they who are miserly with their time,
I will my volunteerism.
To those who fail to see the humanity & dignity in every person,
I leave you my unshakable & selfless love for everyone.
To those who are in despair,
I give you my steadfast hope.
To the dejected & downhearted,
I give you my cheerfulness & joy.
To anyone who lacks vision,
I give you my imagination & creativity.
For anyone I have ever hurt,
I express my sincere apology.
For anyone who has been hurt by others,
I give to you my forgiveness.
To the unfortunate who have been bullied,
I leave my integrity & tenacity.
To those who are weary & exhausted,
I leave my boundless stamina.
To those who are weak,
I give my strength.
For those who are lost,
I leave my sense of direction.
To the lonely,
I confer the healing power of solitude & silence.
For those without pity or clemency,
I give you my mercy.
To those who are without love in their life,
I give you all my love.
For all those who cannot see the beauty in this world,
I leave my poet's heart.
To those who wish me dead,
I bequeath my sympathy.

There is nothing else for me to give, nothing else to leave.

Nothing material matters.

About the author: In the fall of 2022, Dr. John Smelcer was diagnosed with stage 2 B-cell, non-specified, non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma, a metastatic cancer of the lymphatic system. He is currently undergoing hospitalization cycles of chemo and immuno-therapy. John Smelcer is the author of 60 books, including a dozen books of poetry. His most recent collection is Raven. For a quarter century, he was Poetry Editor at Rosebud Magazine, where he currently serves as Senior Editor Emeritus. From 2016-2020, he was the Inaugural Writer-in-Residence for the Charter for Compassion, the world's largest compassion movement with over five million members in 45 countries.

OncoLink is designed for educational purposes only and is not engaged in rendering medical advice or professional services. The information provided through OncoLink should not be used for diagnosing or treating a health problem or a disease. It is not a substitute for professional care. If you have or suspect you may have a health problem or have questions or concerns about the medication that you have been prescribed, you should consult your health care provider.