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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 infarct<sup>1</sup>

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 infarct<sup>1</sup>  
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

## REFERENCES

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