

A Better Future
by Jackson Zhang

Todd Watson, a business owner, sighed as he gazed out the window of his modest home. The usually busy street he lived on was eerily silent, only with an occasional car passing or a lone crow squawking. Todd had to shut down his business due to the coronavirus outbreak. He was very desperate, for he had a wife and two young children. How was he going to support his entire family?

Todd went on the television to watch some news. All the shows on television were about coronavirus. The number of people dead or infected seemed like it was climbing without bounds. COVID-19 had changed every aspect of his daily life.

Todd sat down on the couch, closed his eyes, and put his head down. He just wanted to vanish. Suddenly, he heard two pairs of feet stomping into the room. He glanced up to see his children staring at him.

“Hey, dad! Will you play with us?” begged the younger one.

“Sorry, I can’t right now. I have to think,” he answered.

“Please dad,” pleaded the older one. “I don’t see any paperwork in front of you right now. Plus, we made you a poem. Would you like us to read it out loud for you?” Todd couldn’t say no, so he nodded his head slowly. The two kids began reciting.

“No matter how bad,
No matter how gloom,
Or how sad,
A new day will bloom.
Through difficult times
Many deaths will be made,
But hope will be shining,
Like a light on our face.”

Todd smiled. Those words uplifted his spirit quite a bit.

“Please, will you play with us?” asked the smaller one again.

“Hmm. I guess I will,” said Todd, who was in a brighter mood now. It was better to think like an optimist through troublesome times, rather than being a pessimist.

“We just have to persevere and hop for better days,” Todd thought.