



Volume 11
Issue 2
2016

C4
C5

Lisa Y. Liang

What do they feel?
No fire, no ice,
No pinches, punches, kicks,
No dampness, puddles, piles,
No cuts, scratches, ulcers, rashes.
No swabs, needles, tubes, hammers,

No carpet, hardwood, tile, grass,
No wool, cotton, satin, silk,
No grazes, no brushes of skin,
No squeezes, no hugs.

But they can feel
The ache in their nape they cannot rub,
The itch on their brow they cannot scratch,
The tears at the edges of their eyes, overflowing,
The drips from the nose they cannot blow.

The soft soapy sponge on their cheek,
The suction on their lips, clearing spittle,
The crusty crumbs on their chin.

The fierce wind that whips their hair away,
The warm touch of sunlight on their face,
The kisses on their forehead.

The strength to continue.

Lisa Y. Liang, MD,
is a writer, teacher,
musician, athlete,
avid traveler, and is
currently a resident
at McMaster
Family Medicine.
Email: [lisa.liang
@medportal.ca](mailto:lisa.liang@medportal.ca)