



Snowstorm Swirls

In that blissful quiet time between midnight and dawn snow begins to fall. Slowly at first, each flake is gently floating to the ground taking its time to start creating a white blanket. In any city this quiet time does not last too long. To make a city work three shifts of workers in all walks of life are needed to

make the city run. 4 AM and you start to hear the faraway approach of vehicles, a line of city snowplows heading to their starting points of what will be a very long day. They rumble as they go by putting an end to that quiet time. Soon afterwards an infrequent car, an occasional bus, a subdued conversation intrudes; the day is well on its way.

As each minute passes one by one a person awakens to greet the day. Looking out their window each has their own thought that crosses their mind. Each person being different there are a variety of thoughts.

- If the snow stops soon it will be covered in dirt by day's end.
- I hope it stays white for a while so I can enjoy its beauty.
- I'll have to get out my snow boots.
- Where did I put those warm gloves I bought last year?
- I hope old man that lives down the street is okay. I'll have to check in on him.
- No school today! I wonder if they'll be enough snow to build a snowman.
- I should have fixed that window pane.
- I'll get the guys together for a snowball fight in the park.
- I can earn extra money today shoveling walks.
- I'll have to bundle up the kids; they will want to play outside in the snow.
- I'll make a comfort meal for today and have hot chocolate at the ready.
- I wish the landlord provided more heat.
- The shelter will be brimming with street people today. As if there aren't enough homeless there already! I'll have to go in early.

And so the thoughts keep circling in the city's inhabitants heads. On and on the thoughts swirl not unlike the snowflakes outside, hardly anyone taking the time to stop and appreciate one of nature's precious gifts.

True, the streets are already sullied by the snowplows work and the traffic. But take the time to stop and look at all the wonders that are before your eyes begging to be seen and loved. Look at the way the snow lines each tree branch and twig, showing off its decoration, the snow steadfastly holding on refusing to be blown away in the wind. Watch the bushes changing before your eyes becoming large snowballs. Each yard's grass covered in the beautiful blanket of snow just asking for a snow angel to be made. Squirrels that hunker down during the heavy snowfall come out in the snow's respite to scamper and make you laugh. Think of the small sparrows that are brave enough not to migrate, somehow staying warm and cozy in their nests. See the vivid red and the warm blue of Cardinal and Blue Jay toughing it out against the background of pristine, white snow.

Stop and savor the experience. Find the hidden treasures right before your eyes.

With Gratitude,

Kai