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This Land I Love - In memory of Peter Wang

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THIS LAND I LOVE

*In memory of Peter Wang*¹

February snow...
All saints in his kingdom.
The lives taken away by the gunshots
are another kind of white.

Snow is falling...
When you held the door to let
the others get out of the classroom, a dream
was shattered to death. But the sun
from another galaxy lighted up the cosmos.
You never left us.

Not gone at all--
When the snow slides down the hill in a toddler's sleigh,
the Olympians fly down the alpine skiing,
the homeless curl up by the street corner,
O, February snow...
The agent in Louis Vuitton makes cold calls on the phone.

Like a dose of Amoxicillin, it calms down anxieties.
When the gigantic whiteness
bandages this blue planet, wounds
began healing, and certain belief is reborn
in silence.

February snow...
on my hair, eyes, and the tip of my tongue.
Black leather gloves and red cashmere coat are so excessive,
I unload them. At this moment the snow is
part of me, with the unspoken promise
falling into this land
I love.

¹ Fifteen-year-old Pete Wang was killed on February 14, 2018, while trying to help classmates escape from a gunman shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. He was posthumously accepted to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and then buried in his Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) uniform.

SHELLY HU