

Battle to Diagnosis

You have lived quietly in my head for over 40 years
Then on a Monday morning, you whispered into my ears
"I am alive and now lets start your day off with a spin"
"I'll give you a world only known to you, trapped from within"
I wish I would have known when I heard your subtle sound
Nothing could prepare me for the constant round and round
Appointment after appointment never finding what was wrong
Disappointment became depression, not knowing dragged along
Self diagnosis my new obsession endlessly searching for your name
Doctors would think I'm crazy because to them I looked the same.
I learned to carry on with the dizziness, brain fog and shakes
But then you decided it was time to add a few more aches
The severity of my numbness had come to an all time peak
My neck was hurting, head was pounding and my muscles very weak
I went to see an Ortho and he ordered an MRI
This was just the beginning of me understanding why
It wasnt until my second visit that the neuro nonchalantly told me so
You have Chiari Malformation but lets focus on your wrist pain though
It took me months to learn enough to know this was far from done
As I checked down the symptom list I realized you were alive at 21
So now I know that for twenty years you have been tightening your squeeze
You have blocked my spinal fluid flow and have me on my knees
And as my brain slowly descends into a future of unknown
Your attempts to break my spirit will not tear me from my throne
As our battle carries on with no scars for the world to see
Alone I will fight off the effects of your abnormality
Soon I will give you what you need when the surgeon gives you space
This is our only chance at peace please show me you have grace
Now we have given you space and several scars for the world to see
Over two years later you tightened your grip and took what was left in me
Like a drunk man sloshing with confusion you left me slurring out every word
Stumbling down every pathway, an orchestra of buzzing is all I heard
Dillusions had become a reality and memories were implanted into my head
Hallucinations a part of my mentality hearing voices but not remembering what they said.
I have thought about why I love to live and glorified how much better it would be if I died
I have layed with demons in depressions hell and in darkness uncontrollably cried.
Once again I am recovering after your repair and I feel stronger than I did at the last
I know you will be a part of my future but for now you will remain in my past.
This is not a loss for you because you surely brought me change
For now I see those who suffer and I have empathy for their pain
You have brought me to a bottom time and time again that all chronic pain patients know
A challenge to keep getting up and stepping forward despite the constant blow
You have taught me patience and that every second starts a brand new day
United with other warriors I know we will find our way.

-B.T. Grant