From southern spheres

With putrid gauze, he lays in fear, trembling, alone, with no one near.

Guatemala and Mexico, he traveled far, guided by the beam the Northern Star.

Snow and ice, foreign to his flesh, a limb its price, putting courage to its test.

A chair, however, would not suffice, this young man deserved a device.

A life broken ruptured into pieces, could artfully be made whole gifted by a prosthesis.

Undocumented and poor, two wheels would be enough, ‘cause people like you, just come here for our stuff.

On the gurney he’d ask his Maker’s pardon, where he’s from, campesinos can only garden.

In a city like ours, he asked for parity, nothing more than a dollop of charity.

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Forsake the life he’d been given, cruel and short it had been, At heaven’s gate he’d be forgiven, absolved of mortal sin.

Amidst the limos and the glitter, how could he not be the least bit bitter?

Walk he would, medics did not doubt, but he would need some help, to get about.

Valiant docs took a stand, so he could too, their righteous cause, a collective glue.

With help he walked again advocacy led to a happier end, but what of those, who can’t defend?

Far from home, uprooted but for pride, they pray the just will take their side.

A veil of ignorance, not of neglect, lest we forget an obligation to protect.

Bienvenido to the tired and poor, welcome to this Medina, from foreign shore.

—Joseph J. Fins, MD, MACP, FRCP

Dr. Fins (AOA, Weill Cornell Medical College, 2011, Faculty) is The E. William Davis, Jr., MD Professor of Medical Ethics; Professor of Medicine; Chief of the Division of Medical Ethics, Weill Cornell Medical College and an Adjunct Faculty Member at Rockefeller University. At Yale Law School, he is the Solomon Center Distinguished Scholar in Medicine, Bioethics and the Law. He is a member of the The Pharos Editorial Board. The author’s email address is jjfins@med.cornell.edu.