

Poem

From Apathy to Empathy: A Nurse's Journey

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When you're a nurse, you strive for the best
Caring for patients with your heart, no less
I found joy in suctioning tubes and such
For mechanically ventilated patients, I had a soft touch

As a pulmonary nurse practitioner, I continued to serve
Changing tracheostomy tubes with a steady nerve
But the busy schedule left me apathetic and detached
Life taught me lessons that left me thoroughly scratched

My wake-up call was my son's traumatic birth
APGAR score of 0, he struggled for his worth
With multi-organ failure and significant brain injury too
Initial conversations were grim, brain dead was the clue

We turned to divine intervention and hoped for a miracle
And our prayers were answered, a weaning off of chemical
The journey continued, with discussions on tracheostomy
And end-of-life talks, that left me with a new philosophy

I became a tracheostomy nurse practitioner, with a newfound zeal
Improving lives of mechanically ventilated patients, my heart to heal

Life's harsh lessons made me empathize more than ever
I'm grateful for the change, in my heart it will stay forever.

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