


cambridge.org/pax

David Haosen Xiang, B.A. 

Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA, USA

## Poetry

**Cite this article:** Xiang DH (2024) The war on bodies. *Palliative and Supportive Care*, 1. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1478951524001561>

Received: 26 June 2024

Accepted: 10 July 2024

Email: [dxiang@hms.harvard.edu](mailto:dxiang@hms.harvard.edu)

Sometimes we are  
here. Sometimes  
we remember it.

Sometimes we forget  
pain. Of the innocent  
that will never exist.

Of the guilt that will  
never be made  
better. Sometimes

we call this progress. Past  
anniversaries I mourn  
but pass without knowing.

Sometimes I fold  
my hands and now  
empty chairs. The longer

our story, the less  
it tells. Sometimes  
I wish to be told

how my hands fall.  
Instead of waving  
to the next. Sometimes

they return in the same  
skins. I grow tears for them.  
I make their bed slowly,

caress the ashes. Sometimes  
it is brief. No goodbyes  
before they are taken away.

Sometimes we  
continue. Sometimes  
that's all we have.

© The Author(s), 2024. Published by Cambridge University Press. This is an Open Access article, distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution licence (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0>), which permits unrestricted re-use, distribution and reproduction, provided the original article is properly cited.