

Sometimes I choose
a spot on a quiet page
and write down
something unusual
such as the story of
how everyone
on a street
in Chinatown
walked carefully
while a woman chased
hundreds of tiny turtles
after they got loose
from a tank
in her market stall.
Not one turtle
was harmed.

Faith in Us - 2nd Place

- Jeffrey Johannes

And this mercy
lifts my spirits,
reminds me that
acts of kindness
appear like moths
circling our porch lights
drawn to the light.

If my father was alive
you and I might be cruising down
the highway with the windows down
the soft afternoon breeze
would brush against our faces
as we head to a Chinese buffet restaurant
where we can eat fish fillet and sushi!

If my father was alive
I would take you to meet him
in our humble abode in El Monte
He'd be sitting in a sofa
a stack of newspapers on his lap
He'd be looking up behind
thick myopic lenses
his eyes wide and good humored
He would nod his head and smile at you
Not scowl at you like my sister does

The Difference Kindness Makes
- 3rd Place

- Jackie Chou

If my father was alive
I may not have a nice car
or more money for clothes
but I might be slightly happier
for he would nod his head and smile at you
Instead of scowling at you like my sister does

Angel of Kindness - 1st Place

It never rains in
Southern California—
but man, it pours.
I'm at the toy store
when a curtain of water
hits, laced with hail.
No other shoppers,
so the clerk and I go
under the awning
to watch. We laugh
and laugh, there's
nothing else to do.
Back inside, he leans
on the counter, says,
*It used to rain like this
in Vietnam—two or
three times a day.
You couldn't tell
which way the bullets
were coming from.*

We are quiet.
You never got dry,
then, I say. *No, and
it got so you didn't
care any more.*
For a moment
he's far gone,
down a dark road—
but he comes to,
resuming his life
as an angel of kindness.
He hands a balloon
to a crying baby,
and finds a reversible
doll for my niece's
birthday—Peter Pan
and Captain Hook,
two sides of the coin
that was wagered
in his name.

- Cynthia Anderson

Origami Poems Project
KINDNESS Contest 2016

Finalist Judge, Peg Quinn

Angel of Kindness • 1st Place

Cynthia Anderson

Faith in Us • 2nd Place

Jeffrey Johannes

The Difference Kindness Makes

3rd Place • Jackie Chou



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Kindness Contest Winning Poems © 2016

1st Place

Angel of Kindness by Cynthia Anderson

2nd Place

Faith in Us by Jeffrey Johannes

3rd Place

The Difference Kindness Makes
by Jackie Chou

Thanks to all who submitted - 135 poems in total
Our Anthology, 'The Best of Kindness'
will be available on Amazon, April 2016