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## The Mended Heart is the Strongest

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## **The Mended Heart is the Strongest**

Joseph Muehlbauer

Transformations  
Die and live again  
Take the wind in hand  
And walk through the void  
Moving from flesh to titanium  
The quiet of the sky  
She calls me home  
But I move away from her breath  
To transform  
To live  
To breath  
I die and live again.

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My illustration, pen and ink, came about while pondering the four heart attacks I had. Thinking about those stents that are keeping me alive, whereas mechanisms take the place of flesh and how truly remarkable that is, and how we rely on the science of our lives. Influencing my drawing is the surge of steampunk in art and how, again, it captures images of science. As always, I focus on the details. This piece is part of a series of 40 pen and ink illustrations that focus on my recovery and journey through cancer, heart disease, and dying. Life, no matter the trauma, can continue to be inspiring. And, for me, my I found my voice in art, and life it's inspiration.

**The Mended Heart is the Strongest**

Joseph Muehlbauer

