

“This I do”

I lay sound asleep in the still of the night,
Until I hear the tones, calling me to rise.

I rise in a flash,
Never stop and think,

What for?
Already knowing,

Someone’s at deaths door.
The screams and the shouts of someone in need,

They fear for their life.
I’m the first they see.

My arms stretched out,
Too far to reach to bring them to safety

And comfort, you see.
I’m not a hero,

Or a man that ‘saves the day’.
I’m simply a man that has a debt to repay.

I will give my life anytime,
For yours.

It doesn’t matter who you are,
Of course.

I do this without prejudice
Or creed.

I simply do this
Because you are in need.

**Author: Fire fighter Anthony J Cornelius
Southern Cove Fire Department Company 41 in New Enterprise, Pennsylvania.
He has been a fire fighter for 24 years.**

**A special note from Anthony:
“My debt is to the ones who refused to give up on me. A fire department saw me as a
troubled young man and opened their doors to me and took me in. I never felt like I
belonged MORE so than I did that day when I walked in... I knew then my family was the
men and women of the fire and EMS services.” Brotherhood of Fire**