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A Winter Tale

A nice meeting. My slides looked good. The presentation went well. Learned some things; perhaps taught a few.

Four days in a different city. A break from routine, from the office and the committees. A chance to see old friends and to catch up on nuclear medicine news: Who is going where? How is the new job working out? What is the name of that excellent resident seeking a fellowship in PET? Chatter about new equipment, new ideas. Exchange protocols and explore ideas for new research projects. A chance to dine in new restaurants. The hotel was clean and comfortable, the service responsive.

Yes, it was refreshing. Even managed to pack right this time. Didn't over pack and didn't run out of anything. Miraculously, it all fit back into the suitcase.

Now back to the job. The checkout line is not long. No mistakes on the bill. And more good luck. An old friend is checking out at the same time. We'll share a taxi to the airport. It's much quicker and more comfortable than the airport bus and won't cost any more.

The taxi driver knows the routes to avoid traffic. We arrive with some time to spare. Check the luggage, go to the gate, board on time, stow the carryons and fasten the seatbelt.

Yes, it was a nice meeting. The plane backs away slowly from the gate, turns onto the runway and stops.

"This is Captain Johnson. There is a snow storm blanketing the northeast. The New York airports are reporting 2-3 inches of snow an hour. At this point, all of the airports in the northeast are closed. We've just received word that this flight has been cancelled. We are returning to the gate. It looks like you folks won't be getting to New York today."

Who said it would be easy?

Stanley J. Goldsmith, MD, Editor-in-Chief

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