

## Warts Afoot

for Natalia

Plantar warts once skulked my tender sole  
Shod barnacles that grew darkly, bred slow  
Cryogenics made them fouler, more coarse, less placid  
Like orcs they scoffed when doused in acid!  
Consigned to the feet, I hobbled 'round shire  
When an academic journey answered desire  
On a beach in La Jolla I ran barefoot that summer  
Sprinting through surf, thinking 'bout numbers  
Gritty sand brine besieged the corny tissue  
Peeled-back more cladding each run I issued  
Warty black hearts came unbound and precarious  
Long walks and revels soon finished the hairiest  
Within a month the warts were vanquished, no more!  
Scoured then salted by elemental shore

Irvine, California

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