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100% of Life

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100% of Life

Natalia Martínez

Here lies the tile,
the blue & white
arrangement
of symmetrical plates that
you walked on. And, when
you started
balding,
(aging),
hair, and not just
footsteps
descended on the
Sky & Cloud design.

Here stands the tub my
friend, yours truly.
It's still so clean –
you were so afraid of
Germs. [Sigh] Killed 99% of them
too;
99% of the soil, and dirt, and grime
of life you
washed away, mopped
gone. And
even the laughter –
the ringin' and refreshin'
merry-makin'
of our lives –
you
Boiled and filtered before taking...
“Too much of a good thing...,” you used to say as
you wiped *that* table clean
too.

But there remained, as well you
knew, a worm, a residue...

Dear 1%,

Clear 1%.

And then your broom stood silent,
the bleach bubbled only slightly,
and the fight was over –

Fate and hygiene collided!

*And the core rotted, the
flesh blackened, the eyes
glazed over...*

You couldn't scrub out
Death,
could you? It is
essential, inescapable,
perennial even:
so full of life in
that
it is perpetual and dual.