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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.