Beachcombing

The United Nations Environmental Programme estimated in 2006 that every square mile of ocean contains 46,000 pieces of floating plastic [causing] the deaths of more than a million seabirds every year, as well as more than 100,000 marine mammals.
—UNESCO

On the fine white beach
wandering, wading,
we find priceless treasure—
erites, frog shells, blue sea glass
wandering, wading,
washing in with the tide,
erites, frog shells, blue sea glass
pulled by the moon
washing in with the tide,
razors, balloons, water bottles
pulled by the moon,
baggies, microbeads, toothbrushes
razors, balloons, water bottles
carried by the waves,
baggies, microbeads, water bottles
drifting, floating
carried by the waves,
sea turtle, albatross
drifting, floating
bellies bloated
sea turtle, albatross.

We find priceless treasure—
bellies bloated
on the fine white beach.