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A Doctor's Sabbatical on a Pirate Ship

V. Ramana Dhara

Emory University & Morehouse School of Medicine, vdhara@emory.edu

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Cover Page Footnote

The author thanks Dr. Aruna Moidu for the repartee which enhanced this poem

A Doctor's Sabbatical on a Pirate Ship**V. Ramana Dhara***Emory University**Morehouse School of Medicine*

If I get the job of a Doctor
On a pirate ship
Will you look upon it with horror?
Or think it rather hip

Pirates have adventures galore
with blood, guts & gore
And comely women ashore
I'll treat them for their blights
From sword and pistol fights
And the occasional STD

I'll tell you thrilling tales
of stealing silver and oil
chasing fleeing princesses
and poaching blubbery whales
Oh, what fun
A life on the run
Yo ho ho
And a bottle of rum

My scalpel was my sword, and my laser a gun
These deadly medical weapons
Only added to the fun
No Blackbeard am I
Or Capt. Hook to boot,
But I can defend myself
As I learned how to shoot
In the ship's shooting gallery
Now isn't that a hoot?

After many an adventure, I return home
and the wife says
"Your sabbatical was not that of a doctor
but that of a bum"
Yo ho ho, now I really need... that bottle of rum

No pirate dared make me walk the plank
Lest I bored a hole in their flank
But the good wife bought none of this daring stuff
It's all a bunch she said

Of faff and fluff

A tall tale
Fueled by rum and ale
Your hyperactive brain
will develop a sprain
If you don't get off
This wreck of a train

Brain sprains are curable
My college roommate said
Listen to me instead
(He, a former pothead)
I'll make you a potion
a soothing brain lotion
With a spot of whiskey
Which ain't so risky
Garnish with a dash of weed
And your brain will heal
At double speed

I'm ahead of the curve
He said, with great verve
Medical science will catch up
With the potions I serve
I'll do you a good deed
Which, my friend, is the doctor's creed
I'm left with the weighty question
Do I listen to the wife's advice at hand?
Or to the guy in scientific la-la land?

I'll leave it to you, dear friend
By giving you a clue
Please solve this mystery
Ere I become history
The answer you seek
Lies deep within the pirate's lair
Enter, if you dare