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## Walking on Scilly

Lawrence Upton

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## Walking on Scilly

*by Lawrence Upton*

One can't be said to walk here as one can  
of that setting free on the wide Cornish mainland.  
There isn't room. A few steps and the rock

makes way for sea. Naturally, left to the self,  
connection is by boat; and has been  
since two islands became an archipelago,

garlic chopped and chopped again by wet knives;  
or ground cover and its life on cleared land;  
and we are as small arthropods, not sure

what's happening, unable to conceptualise  
the forces cutting us up. And yet there's space.  
I've dropped the mass production of affect!

I walk more slowly than I have yet done.  
I spend more time upon my arse than's good  
for the fatty heart; but I am observant

when I am stumbling forward, round the stones.  
In lieu of space, I go through age layers  
or think I do. Time's peculiar here

though many want to make it beg and roll.  
It has its sacred gardens and passages  
for which I am self-licensed and alert.

One goes out through many tangled eras,  
ideas' overgrown achievements derelict,  
into territory nowadays undimensioned.