it came in one small bottle

delivered in the mail

Universal Problem Solvent

promotion for a sale

a brightly coloured label

and a warning on the cap

a card full of instructions

and an advertising rap

“this is not a product

of yer higher chemisty,

but the latest biologic

in spirituality.

Spirits, then, of spirit;

most essential essence,

the Universal Problem Solvent’s

sparkling effervescence

cuts through dirt and ugly spots

in places you avoid.

Warning, must add faith in measure

to UPS employed.

Add a touch of elbow grease,

some forethought and a plan,

stir in style, verve and flair,

a touch of your elan.

One small pinch desire,

toss in determination,

stoke the mental fire up,

add patience, concentration.

Follow these instructions,

beginning, middle, end,

now add this bottle UPS

and watch what happens, friend.

The resulting stew contains the perfect

mix of all you need.

We wish you all your problems solved,

now thanks a lot, Godspeed.”

So i turned the bottle over.

It was empty as a lie.

I laughed until I couldn’t:

oh no, no fool, I.