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## Festina Lente

Jack Cooper

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# Festina Lente

By Jack Cooper

—for Charlie

I once laid a stone path in the yard  
and unearthed a spadefoot toad  
in hibernation

It woke up unharmed in my hand  
and I took it to the zoo  
where it could look through glass  
at smiling children  
and get fat on crickets

Half the world lives underfoot  
this garden sprite seemed to say  
Make haste slowly

