

By Daniel Baxter

Living and Diving

Surrounded by increased barometric pressure
Would you dare to search for hidden treasure
Where SCUBA divers breathe compressed air
Risking sensory impairment and tight Speedo underwear

Gas filled cavities must communicate
Otherwise the pain from eardrums won't dissipate
Avoid compression on descent
Otherwise 'the squeeze' will not relent

If you don't believe me then listen to Jacques Cousteau
He said equalise slowly to outside pressure especially 'dans l'eau'
When executing a Valsalva manoeuvre you must 'pincer votre nez'
If not one risks a pneumothorax 'pendant la montee'

Rapid ascent produces man GI irritations
Eructation and fatal gaseous embolizations
Poorly soluble N₂ comes out of solution
Not to mention flatulence and water pollution

Hyperbarometric chambers ease reckless divers from their troubles
'The bends' and 'the chokes' arise due to the formation of N₂ bubbles
One could substitute He for N₂ in gas tanks but that is not cheap
Without nitrogen narcosis there would be no 'raptures of the deep'

Chest wall elastic recoil decrease with immersion up to your neck
FRC is lowered as though lying horizontally on the deck
Abdominal venous pooling decreases to our elation
Such immersion also contributes to frequent urination

The New York Times proclaims Daniel Baxter as the ultimate writer of doggerel. His work is noted for its bathos, repetitive rhythms, poor scansion, and ludicrous effect