

 This poem is by Eric Finney.

Don't Tread on Worms!

I'm asking you nicely:
Please don't tread on worms –
Even though you dislike
All their wriggles and squirms.
You see, there's a great deal
About the earthworm
That deserves your regard
And respect and concern.
First, the tunnel it makes
In the darkness down there
Let into the ground
Both water and air
And it swallows each day
Dead leaves and such stuff
Along with much earth –
It can't get enough!
Then out it all comes
As nice crumbly soil –
Saving the gardener
Much back-breaking toil.
If you think about that
You'll find it confirms
The idea that you shouldn't
Be nasty to worms.

(PS. They're food
For the birds and the fishes
Though these uses may well be
Against a worm's wishes.)

