

**Thorne In His Side**  
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A Caltech professor of physics, Kip Thorne,  
Was upbeat and cheerful, and never forlorn.  
And yet, as a youth, he developed a craving  
To gaze into space and see gravity waving.  
To understand gravity would give Kip pride,  
Though long that would be the great Thorne in his side.

Kip came into prominence early and clearly  
By publishing papers on gravity theory.  
Hypotheses and mathematics were sound,  
Though evidence would not be easily found.  
The problem is, no matter how hard he tried,  
Detection remained as a Thorne in Kip's side.

Kip wondered if gravity waves he could trace.  
They're hard to detect. They can barely displace  
An object beyond a molecular scale,  
So tests to observe them were certain to fail.  
With other researchers he gladly allied,  
Though all felt the problem a Thorne in their side.

They dreamed up an instrument – LIGO by name.  
To intercept gravitons might bring them fame.  
The system was complex, and costly as well,  
But scientists pushed on. They thought, "What the hell?  
"For if not successful, at least we have tried  
"To find and dislodge this great Thorne in our side."

When LIGO hit paydirt, we certainly knew  
About what the Nobel Committee must do.  
They opted to honor three people, not one  
For what they had theorized, all they had done.  
And so, Weiss and Barish smiled broadly in pride,  
Along with Kip – always the Thorne at their side.