

Toldot/Generations

Seymour Cain

Toldot is a biblical Hebrew term usually referring to human generations and genealogies. See, for example, Genesis 5:1, 6:5, 10:22, and Numbers 1:20.

now that I'm old
and know it
I begin to glimpse
the endless line
of generations
the wide-eyed babes
opening up to the whole
incoming new world
and the little kids
so angelic and so loud
God what a clamor
and their older brothers
and sisters
with the sap coming in
and the sap asking out
the first faint gleam
of a new generation
and their mothers and fathers
walking about their business
some satisfied and some sad
and then the old
and the old-old
like me
seeking to make the best
of their remaining time
and a good death
one eye still on the banana peel
and the other on eternity
while the babes and the kids
and the youths and the parents
keep coming on
endlessly