

# *A Child is Born*

All births are different  
To have a child extends the horizons and expands the world  
To have a child is yourself to be transformed  
From a youth to a parent  
From a descendant to an ancestor  
From a child to a progenitor.

But to have a child of a child of a child is another kind of birth  
It is to touch the edges of the future  
To glimpse the fabric of an afterlife  
To hold in one's hand the silver cord of three tenses:  
What shall live after  
What is lasting  
What imperishable.

Yours is a new generation  
You are bearer of an ancient–modern tradition  
Bring joy, song and laughter into our lives  
Bring peace into our trembling world.

