

Prompt: "The World is a Beautiful Place" by [Lawrence Ferlinghetti](#)

The world is a beautiful place  
to be born into  
if you don't mind happiness  
not always being  
so very much fun  
if you don't mind a touch of hell  
now and then  
just when everything is fine  
because even in heaven  
they don't sing  
all the time

## No Walk in the Park

*The world is a beautiful place to be born into  
if...*

by Joan Penn

An arduous process,  
mastering balance,  
as you move forward  
through time and space,  
counteracting gravity,  
inching toward grace,

as you traverse life's slippery surfaces,  
a trade-off between exhilaration and  
apprehension,

pretending a posture of bravado,  
tall, erect, unbent, unbroken,  
head set, shoulders squared,  
arms at sides, fists unclenched,

fingers flexed, eager to clutch at straws  
in uncertain circumstances, determined  
to master balance. An arduous process.