Lawrence Ferlinghetti: “The World Is a Beautiful Place” (published in *Coney Island of the Mind*, 1958)

The world is a beautiful place
  to be born into
  if you don’t mind happiness
  not always being
  so very much fun
  5
  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
  10

The world is a beautiful place
  to be born into
  if you don’t mind some people dying
  all the time
  or maybe only starving
  some of the time
  which isn’t half so bad
  if it isn’t you
  15

Oh the world is a beautiful place
  to be born into
  if you don’t much mind
  a few dead minds
  in the higher places
  or a bomb or two
  20
  now and then
  in your upturned faces
  or such other improprieties
  as our Name Brand society
  is prey to
  with its men of distinction
  and its men of extinction
  and its priests
  and other patrolmen
  and its various segregations
  25
  and congressional investigations
  and other constipations
  that our fool flesh
  is heir to

Yes the world is the best place of all
  for a lot of such things as
  making the fun scene
  and making the love scene
  and making the sad scene
  and singing low songs and having inspirations
  30
  and walking around
  looking at everything
  and smelling flowers
  and even thinking
  and kissing people and
  making babies and wearing pants
  and waving hats and
  dancing
  and going swimming in rivers
  35
  on picnics
  in the middle of the summer
  and just generally
  ‘living it up’

Yes
  but then right in the middle of it
  comes the smiling
  40
  mortician