

# For the Children

*Gary Snyder*

The rising hills, the slopes,  
of statistics  
lie before us.  
The steep climb  
of everything, going up,  
up, as we all  
go down.

In the next century  
or the one beyond that,  
they say,  
are valley, pastures,  
we can meet there in peace  
if we make it.

To climb these coming crests  
one word to you, to  
you and your children:

*stay together*  
*learn the flowers*  
*go light*

---

GARY SNYDER is a Zen poet, environmental activist, and professor emeritus at the University of California, Davis. He has published more than eighteen books of poetry and prose, including the Pulitzer Prize-winning *Turtle Island* (1975) and his most recent book, *Back on the Fire: Essays* (2008). He has received an American Academy of Arts and Letters Award, the Bollingen Prize, a Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship, the Bess Hokin Prize, the Levinson Prize from *Poetry*, the Robert Kirsch Lifetime Achievement Award, and the Shelley Memorial Award.

---