

## Hayflick's Number

All around me things are counting down  
to something larger than what I thought  
I knew. Counting down to the inevitable truth  
that we were created to embrace with fervor.

Hayflick was a wiser man than I am, it would  
seem. He stumbled upon the elemental wisdom,  
embraced it and proved Ponce de Leon a fool.

We are all spotless lambs made for more than  
just the shearing force of a cool blade against skin,  
and this makes me wonder how growing can be

a countdown to no more than cold stone and  
autumn leaves, blowing beneath the gawking

stare of black suits and veiled faces.