

1985

# The Beautiful Muttering

James Laughlin

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## THE BEAUTIFUL MUTTERING

The young man who becomes an old man  
as we read his Cantos is telling us

all he knows about everything he has  
ever done or seen or heard or read

his discourse is like the endless  
beating of the surf on the shore

the poluphloisboio thalasses of  
Homer it is the voice of the blind

singer and the voice of the old man  
in the village square near Chindam-

baram who is intoning the Ramayana  
again & again & again it is an al-

most interminable muttering but of  
such grace of phrase of such wisdom

that we are lost in its spell we  
want to live for ourselves every-

thing the poet has done or seen  
or heard or read sic scriptum est.