

Dirty Old Man's Ancestry

He owes his brow,
broad and square,
to the Moors
who conquered Granada.
He owes his nose,
long and bulbous,
to the Jews
who lived in Toledo.
He owes his sex drive
to his grandmother,
his taste in scotch to her son,
his finickiness
to his other grandmother,
his penchant for lamentation
to her husband, and to their daughter,
his mother, he owes
everything else but his heart.
His heart is his alone.

From *Viejo Verde*. Main Street Rag Press, 2019. Also published as "Dirty Old Man's Lineage" in *Stand Magazine* 14.1 (2015): 17-19.