
Straighteners

(a dialogue about revolutions, 1789 and 1917)

“Progress! Ah, pruned by Euclid’s tome?”

Poor logic-sharp Procrustes: no green thumb.

“Straight lines are the shortest distance between two points.”

Straight lines are the bloodiest distance between blueprints.

“How launch—instead—a lib no blood can warp?”

Smite Goliath with David’s . . . harp.

“What slave-freeing stone enslaved the slave?”

Baby Goliath’s, when his name was . . . Dave.

—Peter Viereck