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# Five Poems

**Christopher Mulrooney**

**base of operations**

**ritual service**

**Lidice**

**a Jew in Berlin**

**Los Angeles St.**

## **base of operations**

the old promontory  
buy it for a song  
gaze down upon the below-named inferiors  
and let one go or not  
admire the view  
simply

## ritual service

what are its teeming flocks  
like the Sermon on the Mount  
like the Hebrews in Egypt  
a patient people and very avid after learning

the disciplines brought to bear in the city upon the learned and unlearned  
there was a score of rote and damnation  
that petered out in an idlesome collect

and that was the law that laugh that monumental rite  
of enormous fakes an idol of the city "a man like a city"

## Lidice

the town that was and is named elsewhere  
on the map  
like Spartacus on the Appian Way

## **a Jew in Berlin**

balked of my city balked of my prey  
for I would dine of dullards  
and they multiply protected  
till I scarce can set one foot outside my door

## Los Angeles St.

the dangerous curves ahead  
malingeringly multiplied  
linger in the august memory  
of slaves here and abroad  
to a pink fashion sense  
roadmending abolishes quite

this is the street of heavenly views  
the Amsterdam and Zurich marts  
compounded daily on an account  
severely multiplied in recondite addition

on a wine chest the silver salver  
and brazen charger receive the slip  
of paper identifying the culprit  
it is a moment of supreme silence

the witness is large or small effaced  
to be sure leaving nothing but a mind  
scarred to be sure and no road more  
assured than this one line by line

### **About the author**

Christopher Mulrooney has written poems in *Streetnotes*, *Pacific Review*, *Or*, *Tulane Review*, *Weyfarers*, and *Orbis*.