

The Nose of the World

1)

What's in a nose?

Noses get in their owners' way
or nudge them toward untoward
ends — and worse means.

Try to minimize a large nose with
cosmetic tricks or hire a surgeon
to reshape or subtract from it,
but there's no permanent escape.

2)

Andy Warhol's refused reform,
forcing him to draw eyes else-
where with strawy wigs and those
shameful, shameful glasses.

3)

Will world-harried Jews ever outrun
pestilential physiognomy that says
a Jew nose is a nose is a nose as
verminous as Leonardo's Judas?
(I holler "J'accuse" with Zola eternally!)

And who can gloss over Adolf Hitler's
schnoz, which grew to bulldog pro-
portions from his little corporal days
to the bunker: proof of doubles?

4)

That downward slide of Stalin's proboscis
sceptored over state-sponsored famines,
rhinoplasty turned *Dirty Dancing's*
Jennifer Grey fame-proof.

5)

Anais Nin, that bottomless slut, had her nose redone but she poked it into sexual excess upon excess, careless abortions, immeasurable despair.

She fled monotony and cackled from bed to bed — including her own father's: like-nose to like-nose sniffing in genetic familiars, living the Freudian dream.

Until that chick's end came home to roost and her vagina got cancer, taming that rabid Nin libido and damning her to a loverless, self-stale sickbed, deathbed.

6)

Among the Wild West's Tombstone's "Shady Ladies" was "Big Nose" Kate Elder, wife of and stool pigeon against a name everyone knows: Doc Holliday.

7)

Saint-Just looked down his nose at the *Ancien Regime* and sniffed the Terror's stench with relish for "Liberty is a bitch who must be bedded on a mattress of corpses."

8)

Rule exception: Cyrano de Bergerac schooled the Viscount on how to properly whip slick quips against his profound proboscis, like reversing slurs and epithets by humoring them. When he (via Ed Rostand) extemporized a

ballade as a witty follow-up (seventy years before Kool Herc, The Last Poets and Bronx jams) ten-hearted Cyrano created hip hop!

Dying fifteen years after his Arras wound, Love's humble Pinocchio told Roxanne that he penned those "love-words" all that time before swiping his sword at Death and dying clutching his *panache*.

9)

Aside: Dali's *Face of Mae West* features sofa "lips" and a fireplace "nose." West was born the same year as "Schnozzola" Jimmy Durante.

10)

Myrna Loy's nose.