

## *Terrorists*<sup>i</sup>

By Irving Layton

Insulted, forsaken exiles  
harried, harassed, shat on  
learning  
Justice is heard only  
when it speaks through the mouth  
of a cannon

learning  
Right lies waiting  
To fly out of a gun barrel

learning weakness is the one crime  
history never pardons or condones

Uselessly you bruise yourselves, squirming  
against civilization's whipping post;  
Black September wolfcubs  
terrify only themselves

The Jewish terrorists, ah:  
Maimonides, Spinoza, Freud,  
Marx

The whole world is still quaking

Note: Cohen in the interview misremembers the poem in his paraphrase adding Einstein and Jesus to "the Jewish terrorists" which he refers to simply as "our" terrorists. He gets the gist, however.

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<sup>i</sup> *The Pole-Vaulter* (Toronto: McClelland and Stewart, 1974), p. 37