Paul Erdős

he was an alien
a descendant of Martians who landed
on what once were Austro-Hungarian highlands
they didn’t like the surroundings
but local girls were impressed by their appearance
so it happened
the Martians flew away before the baby was born
pureblood Martians couldn’t breathe in terrestrial air
for them life on Earth was unbearable

how had he survived? no one knows
possibly on mathematics
he spoke with a terrible accent
loved spicy food
never settled on land
rarefied air of pure mathematics
made him as close to Martian atmosphere
as he could reach on Earth
gave him a chance

he inhaled and exhaled mathematics
so people around him exhaled it
together with him
it went viral
five hundred and four of them
then others together with them
six thousand five hundred and ninety three
then others with them
thirty three thousands six hundreds and five
then others…
up to thirteen links in a chain
in every direction
until it exhausted the total number
of those who do mathematics

he was writing and writing and writing
papers as if otherwise he’d disappear
he had travelled from one place
of condensed mathematical science
to another all his life all these years
as he self-measured his age in two and a half
billions rotations of the Earth around the Sun
when he exhaled for the very last time
suddenly after giving a talk
at a conference
they found in his pocket a ticket
not to Mars but to another
mathematical conference
now equally inaccessible