

# The Deronda Review

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## Locked Gates

Still, chill air in the street,  
empty early morning bare,  
high walls, closed gates  
flash and unlock so  
key-holders may enter

into the palaces. door-keepers  
guardians keys passwords,  
open and permit ascent  
upwards inwards through  
doors within doors to  
the palace  
within palaces

that eye rejoices  
which alone can read  
the key to place in the lock  
the word, the pass code  
to open locked gates

in the palaces' heart  
the throne room flashes  
fiery rivers and crystal.

He is there and not there  
and not just there  
for ever now.

— Michael E. Stone

done in Rome, October 2007



Lighthouse, by Irene Frenkel. Drawing (16" X 12", pencil and coffee stain), circa 2000.

### In this issue:

- Sustenance* 3
- The Ways of Life* 7
- Corners of the World* 14
- Not an Explanation* 18
- The Calligraphy of Creation* 24

SIGNING

the pen  
shoots forth the word  
chars the page with power  
the word  
brands the page  
blackens its own shape's edges  
characters  
sign significance  
signal the soul's ascending  
the letters  
create the world  
combine in God's name

– Michael E. Stone