

Cedars

Michael E. Stone

In the mountains of Lebanon,
high stands of cedars,
majestic green witnesses,
a thousand years silent but

still 2,000 years younger
than those felled by Hiram,
Solomon's royal friend,
floated to Jaffa and
worked by Tyrrian carpenters,
who knew the wood,
whose hands coaxed forth
its lustre and its depth.

Cedars from Lebanon,
for King Solomon's Temple.

Cedar oil poured on a scroll,
against mould and worms.
Cedar burns on the altar
its pleasing fragrance rises up.

Cedars of Lebanon.