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Convalescent Room

The drapes match the counterpanes
red flowers, blue leaves, framed designs.
Closed at night they are half-lit
by mercury lamps.
Security cameras outside.

Inside, she sleeps,
sown from throat to navel,
full of power.
Between surgery and strength are
doctors and nurses,
surveillance and security.

Soon
the orange light will stop
miscolouring our life.
Blue leaves will turn green.

Michael E. Stone was born in England in 1938. His family moved to Australia in 1941. He holds the degrees of PhD (Harvard) and DLitt. (Melbourne). He was appointed to the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in 1966 and became Gail Levin de Nur Professor of Religious Studies and Professor of Armenian Studies in 1980. Now retired, he lives in Jerusalem with his family. He has published poems in numerous literary journals as well as translations of medieval Armenian poetry. Poems by him have also been anthologized in a number of collections. His poetic translation of *Adamgirk'*, a medieval Armenian epic about Adam and Eve in 6,000 lines appeared with Oxford University Press in 2007. He is recipient of the Landau Prize for Contribution to the Humanities.