

## **Cave**

The cave, chamber behind chamber,  
recedes beneath the earth,  
a mighty mountain crevice  
gorged out by Vulcan's streams.

Water's slow solvent magic,  
stone-cut a royal court,  
a chamber of crystals flashing,  
green and brown and red.

Viscous mineral drip  
increments a purple dias,  
a pillared, pilastered proscenium,  
a many-coloured throne.

Rainbow crystallised ceiling,  
polychrome stalactites,  
a roof of nails fine-worked  
by time and patient building.

Beauty below the surface,  
in inner, hidden recesses,  
glints in the dark,  
hidden as so often,

awaiting light.

**Michael Stone**, Jerusalem