

MICHAEL E. STONE

A PRAYER OUT OF THE DEPTHS OF THE HEART

— Phrase beloved of the Armenian mystic poet, Gregory of Narek

From the balcony of the rest home
where her heart was healing
I saw Yad VaShem,
a memory with no healing.

The hills towards Jerusalem
decked with villages
crowned with lights
as for a festival.
Above them Yad VaShem.

On television we just heard --
a bus bomb in Jerusalem,
seventeen killed
a hundred wounded.

Death's bloody acolytes
rip out hearts,
ours and theirs,
for offerings on Satan's altar
in God's name.
They fear the hearts' healing,
fear it, fear it, fear it!

May her heart heal,
May all our hearts heal.

A prayer,
out of the depths of the heart.