
Area C

Went with rattling red bus 53
to Area C, passing the regular
roadblocks, settlements above,
villages below, to hike through
the Wadi Valley along the Qelt river.

A green oasis between limestone
desert hills, herons and eagles
flying high with a view of the Dead Sea.
Date palm trees at the banks, gazelles,
snakes, foxes and scorpions in the sand.

Scented wild mint, goats, sheep and
an old canal leading to an Ottoman
house with a blossoming garden.
Layers of history at sight, ruins,
an aqueduct and Bedouin caves.

Passed a monastery hanging in the rocks
with monks wearing creosote black ropes
and finished the hike visiting the ruins
of the Emerald Palace of King Heroz,
near the oldest and lowest city known.

Three sources emerge in the valley,
one without a Heart,
one without a Brain,
one without Courage,
although it is the same Lapis Lazuli.

Which cave hides the Holy Grail?
Ask the expelled Bedouin,
roaming freely in a Glass Bowl,
taking their Secret with them,
as the Area C desert wind howls.