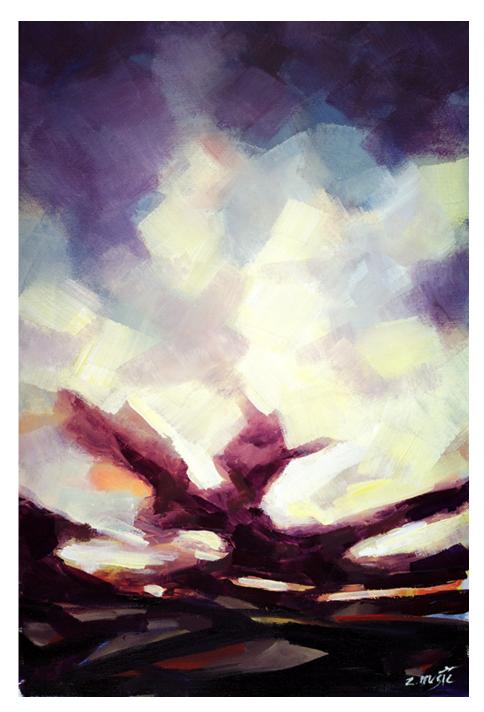
If Moses had Entered the Land

by Steven Sher (September 2017)



Shattered Shades of Sky, Zlatko Music

packed with Hasids and their pious wives: 600,000 pilgrims on the 7th of Adar; beggars extending boney hands like turnstiles at the entrance to the tomb; madmen babbling incoherent visions or spitting indignation: Remove your shoes; you stand on holy ground. We'd expect a magnificent stone edifice on a par with Machpelah, an Herodian fortress amid a dusty city topped by an Ottoman mosque whose grandiose dome lays claim to another site of holy contentionhis tomb off limits to the Jews except on designated nights after the locals have gone to sleep, our presence less a provocation then, the route through town secured with armored vehicles and soldiers, a caravan of bulletproof buses drawn to blinding light, that pillar of imagined fire

billowing into the night.

Brooklyn native **Steven Sher** is the author of 15 books including, most recently, <u>Uncharted Waters</u> (New Feral Press, 2016), and *The House of Washing Hands* (Pecan Grove Press, 2014). He taught at many universities/workshops for more than 35 years. He moved to Jerusalem in 2012. Find out more at <u>stevensher.net</u>.

If you have enjoyed this poem by Steven Sher and want to read more, please click here.