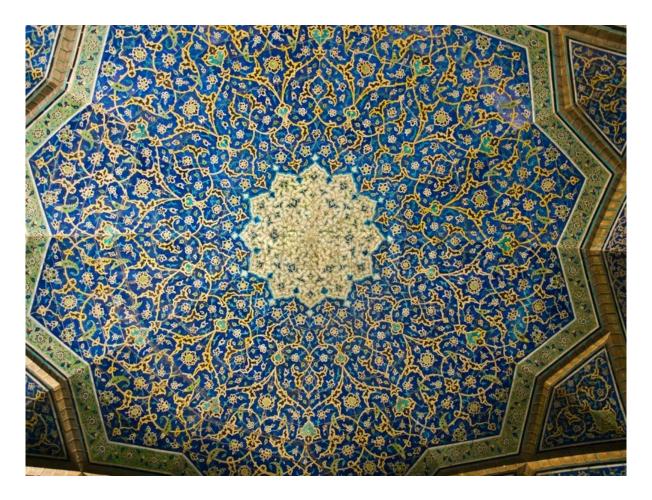
The Orient

poemsong, in memory of Leonard Cohen

by David Solway



I orient	travelled	to Am, Em	the
Where the e	arnest seekers went		C, Em
To search	for wisdom, search 1	for truth—	Am,
The youth	illusions	of C, Em	our

 $$\operatorname{\textsc{Between}}$$ desire and regret, Am, F6 or Dm7/A

The tower and the oubliette Em, Am

High up on the mountain peak

Between the straight and the oblique

Between the summit and the cloud

Between the hermit and the crowd

I found the wise man sitting there Who played a hand of solitaire

I asked the sage what he would do

If he were caught between the two

Between the music of the spheres

And the music no one hears

Between the silence and the word
The seahorse and the hummingbird

The wise man did not say a thing
He merely cast in the I Ching
His fingers moving canzicrans
Lost between the hexagrams

Lost between the waning moon

And the darkness of the rune

Between the free man and the slave
Between the sunlight and the cave
The leaden bar, the golden mean,
There's only what lies in between

Between what rises and what falls

Between the night and the crystal balls

Between the heavens and the dust
Between the oil and the rust
Between the creature and the wheel
Between the angel and the seal

That's all that our wisdom knows
Between the nettle and the rose

Going to and coming from
Riding on the pendulum
Between intention and result
Between the sweetness and the salt

Between the field mouse and the hawk
Between forever and the clock

I've come back from the orient

Back into my element

It's not the game we used to play

When we were fools back in the day

Between the shroud and the swaddling cloth
Between the candle and the moth

The wise man, well, he made no sense

And that produced the consequence

Between the flower and the fire

Between the dungeon and the spire

Between the winding corridors

Between the prayers and the wars

O many went to Kathmandu

Betrayed the Christian and the Jew

Betrayed the world that gave them life

Sought for peace and brought back strife

And did not keep the proper time

Between the rhythm and the rhyme