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## *House of Stone*

David Landrum

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**Mythcon 51: The Mythic, the Fantastic, and the Alien**  
Albuquerque, New Mexico • Postponed to: July 30 – August 2, 2021



# House of Stone

by David Landrum

Granite was not made to imprison, let alone  
Contain, confine the mind, surround the heart,  
And silence speech, paralyze flesh and bone,  
As Jadis did with evil magic art.  
Beasts, creatures stood in frozen parody  
Of life, caught in their final moment's gaze,  
Expressions locked in varying degrees  
Of terror's fog or defiance's blaze,  
Until the Lion came there with healing breath,  
Restoring rock again to living being,  
Reverse Medusa, healing stony death  
With life to hardened hearts, to stone eyes, seeing.  
Spirit and life he gives them. With a shout,  
Like Michelangelo's *Prisoners*, they break out.

"House of Stone" first appeared in *Ancient Paths* in Summer, 2004, and is reprinted with permission.

# # # #

## MYSTERY: ILLUSTRATION IN SEARCH OF A STORY

Bonnie Calahan once more offers an illustration to invite stories and poems. Why are all those flying or swimming creatures converging on that circle of cloud or water? And what are they anyway? Do they include a peacock, a duck, a raccoon, a dove, a sea-horse, a monkey, a half-developed tadpole and an African clawed frog? Or are they completely different creatures? Is there an unhappy man in a tuxedo at the center of it all? Let your imagination flow. Submit your interpretations, as stories, poems, or story-poems for possible publication in later issues of *The Mythic Circle*.

## EDITORIAL

Here we are, almost on time, and with another fine selection of stories, poems and illustrations. Scott Clements presents "Murderer of Days," another angle on the many-sided Faust legend. Ellen Denham brings us "Aldric's Journey," an excerpt from her novel-in-progress, *The Willow Maiden*. Those of you who saw the ballet based on the story, or the excerpts from it which Ellen shared at Mythcon XXXV (in 2004), will enjoy learning more. Bill Krapfel presents a story in the time-honored mythopoeic genre of the "found manuscript": the origin of the constellations as told by a certain Johannes Martin. Joe Christopher also offers a "found manuscript," a cycle of poems by the eloquent but obscure Nat Whilc, soldier during World War I. As experienced Mythopoeic authors know, the device of the "found manuscript" has been used by

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