

Tales and Legends

The forest is the home for the cedar trees enrooted in its womb since ever, a home for the same cedar trees mentioned by the prophets, in the Torah and in legends.

Here, legends and tales have arisen from History, from tales that made people wonder and live in struggle on one hand and in inquiry on the other.

We will most notably mention among these narrations -as different in objectives, sources and approaches as they are- the ones that bind the Cedar Forest with sanctities and faith symbols.

- Several legends claim that the first ancestors, Adam and Eve, were residents of Lebanon, and they used to spend winter in the Qadisha cave. As for summer, they used to spend it in the Forest of the Cedars of God. It was mentioned in the verses 4 and 5 (4-5: 1) of the first chapter of the "Book of Job", that Adam has taken the cedar forest as a special place for him, where he would provide offerings to God on his and his sons behalf.
It was mentioned in the local tradition as well, two ancient entwined cedar trees that were known as The Adam and Eve cedar tree, then afterwards became known as the Family Cedar, and are now known as The Lovers or the Love cedar.
- Another myth states that the gods of the earth were frightened to leave Mount Lebanon without a guard to defend if danger intensified, so they agreed that the Cedars of God be guarding this mountain. And now, "here is the Cedar forest fulfilling its mission since thousands of years, as whenever danger is felt over Lebanon, its timeless branches arise and rebel to an extent that some believe that the Cedar forest is the guardian of Lebanon".
- It is also rumored that one of the guards in charge of opening "the Church of Transfiguration" during the month of May, saw a priest in a shiny white gown, so he thought that he was one of the priests who come to the forest seeking blessings. But as he opened the door, the priest passed across the guard and knelt down before the altar. The priest started to sing psalms in a very tender and sweet voice. As the guard was staring at his thick white hair on his shoulders, and his white beard covering half his chest and his face glowing with pureness and hallow, the priest disappeared in a heartbeat. The guard got scared and felt surprised as he heard during his ravishment a rumbling voice coming from the "Hermit's Cedar" and echoing throughout the entire forest: "I am the hermit who praised God here, and I am still praising him where he transfigured."
- The Torah has spoken about the Cedar with dignity and honor, and made it the king of trees and forests for its immortal features and its relationship with God the Creator.

This tree has not grown like other trees from a single seed that sprang thanks to natural factors, but God has distinguished it indeed, as He has engrained it with His hands and took good care of it.

- The Transfiguration of the Lord Jesus to his disciples happened on a high mountain, according to the evangelists Matthew and Mark. This is why Christians continued to use the myrrh of the cedars as incense in their religious ceremonies, its oil as cream and its wood in the construction of churches and altars as well as in making holy utensils, and in carving statues of saints and crosses, which were worn around the necks.
- Calling the Virgin Mary the "Cedar of Lebanon", symbolizes the spiritual aura that the forest holds. The visitors who set foot inside the fence find their selves humble and pulled deep into the past, and thus the stripe of epics starts slipping from the memory of History, declaring determination and displaying the splendor of dwelling in what looks like a shortcut to the story of the forest.