

The Cedar – its Symbol, the icon and the Badge of Honor

The cedars of God were adopted as a symbol for merits and social, physical and patriotic qualities. Among the most prominent symbols, we find:

- The symbol of permanent greenery and freshness.
- The symbol of haughtiness and poise.
- The symbol of resilience, stiffness and endurance.
- The symbol of holiness, purity and precedent time.

The Cedar immersed in the scent of holiness had to become an icon.

At first its name was associated with the memory of the Maronites, who started to implore the Virgin Mary and called her the "Cedar of Lebanon" in their prayers.

On another note, the cedar was used to cover the sites and equipment of the frontline Maronite leaders at first, as a form of disguise and shelter.

In addition to all this, the cedar was circulated to be a civil icon that the Maronite community lifted, and later became the Lebanese icon amid its flag.

The visit of the legendary forest means to dig into a sea of myths and tales, symbols and stories, and customs and traditions. This emotional dimension sticks to you along with the national dimension that were both gathered by the identity, the flag, the national anthem and the permanent presence of the cedar in the language and poetry. It is a dimension engraved equally in the minds of the Lebanese expatriates and residents with all its holiness and taboos.

The history of the Cedar forest is full of incidents and stories of Persian, Greek, Phoenician civilizations and other peoples of the ancient world, to an extent that this forest became to some people as sanctuaries that are prohibited from being analyzed.

Resources and References

- The Old Testament of the Holy Bible.
- Le Cèdre Du Liban Dans L'histoire (P. Pierre Raphael).
- Personal information collected from the senior citizens.
- Field studies on the forest