Tea at Topkapi Palace, Istanbul*

Kath Abela Wilson and Nia

We are the blue cup
with two silver handles
under the old trees
with the ambience
of great touches of friendship

We are the rose plate
with two gold birds
flying into
the unforgettable
memories

We are the amber bowl
where two green vines
grow together
shining pictures
of all our lives

Our dreams are stirred
with two spoons
between times and places
where all minarets are calling
we deeply feel the beauty of this moment

*a collaboration by Kath Abela Wilson and Nia,
a Turkish poet, at our first meeting, in Istanbul.

Kath Abela Wilson lives in Pasadena, California. Her free verse, and Asian short form poetry is published in hundreds of journals worldwide. She has traveled the world to math conferences with her husband Rick, a math professor and historical and world flute collector and player, performing flute and poetry together. She hosts poetry meetings and salons at her home and the local Storrier Stearns Garden and performances by Poets on Site in museums, other gardens and galleries. For the last year she has hosted three zoom meetings a week for community sharing, consolation and inspiration. Her first book, *Figures of Humor and Strange Beauty,* a serial personal Odyssey, was published by Glass Lyre Press, 2019. Her two chapbooks *The Owl Still Asking, Tanka for Troubled Times, Driftwood Monster, Haiku for Troubled Times,* were published by Aria Press, LocoFoChaps 2017. She created and leads the group Poets on Site, a Pasadena collaborative writing and performance group which has produced many anthologies. Most recently she edited with James Haddad, *Stone Lantern,* celebrating the Storrier Stearns Garden in Pasadena.

Photo by Tom Clausen