

Ghazal 2214 from Rumi's *Diwān*: one poem in two translations

Happy the moment which we, you and I, sit in the palace, with two forms and two figures but with one soul, you and I.

The beauty of the garden and the birdsong will confer upon us the water of life at that time when we enter the garden, you and I.

The stars of heaven will come to gaze on us; we shall show them the moon's sickle, you and I.

You and I, unselfed, will be collected together in ecstasy, joyful, and indifferent to idle fable, you and I.

The parrots of heaven will all be sugar-cracking in the place where we laugh in suchwise, you and I.

This is still more amazing, that you and I here in one corner in this very moment are in Iraq and Khorasan,¹ you and I.

In one form upon this earth, and in another form in eternal paradise and the land of sugar, you and I.

Translation by Arberry *Mystical Poems 2*, p. 64

¹ This is a reference to Shamsī Tabrizī, who was born in Tabrīz which was considered Iraq in the 13th century, and Rūmī who was born near Balkh in the region known as Khorasan.

Bliss –
the instant
spent seated
on the terrace,
me next to you
two forms and
two faces
with just one soul,
me and you.

The chatter of birds
the garden's murmur
flowing
like a fountain of youth
as we stroll
through the roses,

me and you
The stars of the firmament, bent low to look over us
Let's eclipse them, shine like the moon,
me and you

Me and you join,
beyond Me
beyond You
in joy
happy, released from delire and delusion
Me and you, laughing like this
reach dimensions where celestial birds suck sugary cubes
Magical! me and you, here,
in our corner of earth
but wafting on airs of Iraq and Khorasan
me and you
In one form here on earth
in other forms in paradise,
eternal, sunk in fields of sugar
me and you.