

Tea Invitation

Ibtisam Barakat

I write for my heart has become a country
and I want all people to live in it.

I make space by emptying
all corners of fear.

I make peace by making
a cup of tea for my story and yours.

A cup of tea for our estranged
histories that come from one family
but to one another do not speak.

Hot tea and mint.
I have meant to invite you over to my heart.

Do you like your tea with sugar?

Ibtisam Barakat is the author of *Tasting the Sky*, winner of the Arab American National Museum Book Award in the Children's/Young Adult category.

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