

2018 Roger M. Jones Poetry Content
Honorable Mention: Anna Kalis

I Am From

I am from gyros and oregano,
 From the hundreds of islands surrounded by the clearest waters,
I am from singing loudly, dancing badly, and eating frequently,
 From bright screens, big cities, broken dreams,
I am from the jailed freedom fighter in communism,
 the reminiscent opera singer in delusion,
 the hopeful immigrant in the states.

I am from calm anxiety and callous sympathy,
I am from sacrifices, hardships, and tears,
 From leaving home to start a broken one,
I am from too much and never enough,
 From “Don’t worry” but “Don’t give up”,
 From “Try again” but “What’s the point”.

I am from Anastasia, the resurrection of Christ,
 From walking alone to be together,
I am from καλημέρα and mirëmëngjes rather than good morning,
 From deafening, overcrowded car rides to the beach,
I am from a sea of brunettes, brown eyes and tanned skin.

I am from the daughters who wouldn’t dare,
 From the people who couldn’t dream,
I am from my pride of those who had none,
 From a cluster of roads all into one.

