

3 X 3

*The genesis of “3 x 3” occurred when my friend Yiorgos Chouliaras sent me a message by e-mail with a copy of his poem “Telos Enigma” attached, which led to my replying with an attachment of a draft in English of the first few lines of the poem under the title “End Riddle,” which led to his reply encouraging me to finish the job, which led to my finishing the job and sending it to him, which led to his response with a handful of detailed questions concerning the translation, which led to my response to his response, which conversation resulted in a mutually satisfying final version of the Greek poem in English. Following a similar pattern with a few more poems by Yiorgos, our conversation between poet and translator stirred our collaborative affinity to the point at which it moved us to reverse our roles. For the next year and a half or so we kept the dialogue going with versions and discussions of several of our poems until we agreed upon three by each of us that we could offer as poems in both languages.*

—George Economou