

# *Faith, Hope and Fiction*

## **She Stalks on Stilts and The Terrier– 2 Poems**

**By Murray Alfredson**

### **She stalks on stilts**

She stalks on stilts,  
that lofty dame,  
glares down that hawk-  
beaked nose on pears  
of gold and nutmegs  
freaked with silver,  
but does not deign  
a nod towards  
the lowly gardener —  
so noble is  
that daughter of  
the King of Spain.

## **The terrier**

Last night, across a gap of silent air  
he reached me with his stab of fear.

Whilst I passed, before I heard him stir  
he pierced me, and I knew that fear.

I turned and saw him standing near,  
gazing through his fading fear.

What power had he, bypassing eye and ear,  
to twinge my common nerve of fear?

*Murray Alfredson is a retired librarian and lecturer, and was also a Buddhist Associate to the Multi-faith Chaplaincy Service at Flinders University of South Australia. He has published essays on Buddhist meditation and on inter-faith relations in Theravada, The middle way, In the round, and Eremos; and he has published poems and translations from the German in journals in Australia, the United States and the United Kingdom. His collection, Nectar and light, appeared early in 2007 in a shared volume, number 12 of the New poets series jointly published in Adelaide by Friendly Street Poets and Wakefield Press. He was awarded the High Beam Poetry Prize in 2004 and the Poetry Unhinged Multicultural prize in 2006. He was nominated for the Pushcart Prize in 2008.*