

Fall 2002

"Jang"

Anne Elezabeth Pluto

Lesley University, apluto@lesley.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.lesley.edu/jppp>

Recommended Citation

Pluto, Anne Elezabeth (2002) ""Jang"," *Journal of Pedagogy, Pluralism, and Practice*: Vol. 2 : Iss. 2 , Article 9.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.lesley.edu/jppp/vol2/iss2/9>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by DigitalCommons@Lesley. It has been accepted for inclusion in Journal of Pedagogy, Pluralism, and Practice by an authorized editor of DigitalCommons@Lesley. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@lesley.edu.

"Jang"

Anne Elezabeth Pluto

*Jang in the hands of the Mujahideen
Father

born on the eve of World War
I live your conscience

daily reminders that

the world is a frightening place
you never dreamed as you spent

the Second World War traveling west
landscapes away from your home
that New York would be the site

of terrorist activities
on the day of your 50th
wedding anniversary

in the third millennium,
in your second century.
As a soldier,

you lived central asia,
traveled the middle east
belyorussian, in a british

uniform, having escaped death
in a soviet prison

the names of cities

roll off your tongue like turkish
delight, now ruined

Beirut, beleaguered Damascus
starving Baghdad

mysterious Alexandria
and bleeding Jerusalem

I played store with your war
souvenir coins

turning over the bas relief of pyramids
and camels

my kingdom for a beggarly denier
I see the world is round

and hold it in my child's hands

well traveled in your stories

I pray now that we can realign
against the evil

religion brings to the oppressed
that magi lift their hearts to god
and climb the mountains of Babel
holding words instead of weapons,
and as their voices reach

heaven

God hears the faithful ask forgiveness
for themselves and all of history.
amen and amen

*Jang- a Dari Afghan word for war
Anne Elezabeth Pluto

9/24/01