

Wright State University

## CORE Scholar

---

English Language and Literatures Faculty  
Publications

English

---

2015

### Afghanistan

Alpana Sharma

Wright State University - Main Campus, [alpana.sharma@wright.edu](mailto:alpana.sharma@wright.edu)

Follow this and additional works at: <https://corescholar.libraries.wright.edu/english>



Part of the [English Language and Literature Commons](#)

---

#### Repository Citation

Sharma, A. (2015). Afghanistan. *Postcolonial Text*, 10 (1).  
<https://corescholar.libraries.wright.edu/english/233>

This Poetry is brought to you for free and open access by the English at CORE Scholar. It has been accepted for inclusion in English Language and Literatures Faculty Publications by an authorized administrator of CORE Scholar. For more information, please contact [library-corescholar@wright.edu](mailto:library-corescholar@wright.edu).

Alpana Sharma

Afghanistan

After all's done  
But not said  
No, not said  
Nearly enough,  
The orphans still howl  
For their mothers  
In the closed  
Unloved  
Spaces of the war zone

Between grown-up battle lines  
That were drawn  
Long before those shrieks  
Hit our ears,  
We paused  
In our exertions  
At the mall of  
Endless shopping  
And asked,  
Of this ignorance  
What forgiveness?  
But knew the answer already—

It is from now  
As it always was  
Too late,  
Too late to unclench  
The petrifying clutch  
Of infant fingers  
Drone-struck in awe  
Of the machine that overtook them.