

Afghan People

There is a spirit here
I have failed
To grasp
It lives and moves
All around me
Yet I cannot see it
I can only sense it
As if the people
Know something
I cannot comprehend
I feel their sympathy
For my ignorance
My inability
To understand
Their simple life
And the fact
They do not envy mine
The longer I stay
The more I realize
It's my arrogance
That blinds me
It calls to question
In what direction
Civilization has really moved

—Maj. Walter Piatt
Afghanistan, 2002

Afghan Soldiers

There will be
No parades
No soldiers welcome
When this man returns
Just dried up fields
That need planted
And a family
That needs fed
No deep meaning discovered
From visiting the edge
And returning alive
Just survival
Basic and real
The purist of all feelings
That speaks
In this land
It moves in all directions
Empowering all
To survive
To live another day
It is God's will

—Maj. Walter Piatt
Afghanistan, 2002