

# “Displaced”

By Farkhanda M. Zahir & Jennifer C. Mann

*Teachers, our students bear great burdens.  
A poem penned by student and teacher.*

They brought up religion  
Promising a thousand things

At a happy party  
They brought a martyr

Displaced from *the place*  
Injured in the leg

Mother of the martyr  
Searching for the shroud

And I cannot complain  
As I do not search for graves

It has been destroyed  
*This* homeland, *this* pain

Yet I remain  
Frozen in this space





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*Farkhanda Mohammad Zahir is a recent graduate of UNC Chapel with a Bachelor's degree in Neuroscience. She plans to one day pursue a PhD in Biomedical Sciences or attend medical school. Farkhanda works for North Carolina's U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants and is concerned about health and educational disparities in access and outcomes based on socioeconomic, geographic, and racial/ethnic factors. Through connections with various families, Farkhanda has developed a sense of self-awareness and cultural sensitivity, which she hopes to cultivate as she interacts with the community. Farkhanda is confident that higher education will prepare her to improve individuals' lives and address a community's needs.*

*Jennifer C. Mann is a doctoral candidate in the Teacher Education and Learning Sciences program at North Carolina State University, where she specializes in Literacy and English Language Arts. Her research interests include critical literacy, multilingual education, and culturally sustaining pedagogy. She has spent 15 years teaching students ranging from kindergarten to college, spending the majority of that time as a high school English Literature teacher, specializing in instruction to culturally and linguistically diverse students.*