





the parents of the bride in Qaisra Shahraz's "A Pair of Jeans" call off their son's planned marriage after seeing the girl dressed like a decadent Westerner. In "Run-away Truck Ramp" Soniah Kamal charts the journey made across the USA by an American woman and Pakistani man, and their difficulties finding common ground in terms of conflicting sexual norms and customs; while they separate after only a few days, the impact of this journey remains: "These are the one-night stands that determine the future of the rest of our nights" (298).

Universal experience / unity-in-diversity are highlighted by Fawzia Afzal Khan and Maniza Naqvi, while the tale of a mother and her handicapped daughter in "Mirage," by Talat Abbasi, is disturbing for all readers, regardless of their particular cultural origins. Two of the stories in this collection deal with the recent conflicts surrounding the rise of the Taliban and al-Qaeda: Humera Afridi's "The Price of Hubris," set in New York just after 9/11, and the sudden vulnerability felt by the Pakistani protagonist (a situation reminiscent of Moshin Hamid's *The Reluctant Fundamentalist*), and Bushra Rehman's "The Old Italian," set in a contemporary immigrant neighborhood in Queens. The editor has also included a student work, "Clay Fissures" by Nayyara Rahman, one of the winners of the 2004 British Council initiative, "I Belong International Story Chain."

*And the World Changed* comes at a good time, when the current geopolitical situation places Pakistan very high on the list of the world's most dangerous places. Through all of these representations of the trauma of colonialism and Partition, Indo-Pakistani relations, gender conflict and cultural clash are portrayed human beings, individuals certainly, but more important, human beings as members of humanity, each related to one another, linked by the same dreams and the same worries which the women writers of this anthology address with such clear vision. We look forward to more first-rate inspiration from the forthcoming *Oxford Companion to the Literatures of Pakistan*, also edited by Muneeza Shamsie.