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# The 21<sup>st</sup> Century

## (A Girl Born in Afghanistan)

Adapted from the Nobel Lecture given by Kofi Annan  
in Oslo on December 10, 2001



Your Majesties, Your Royal Highnesses, Excellencies,  
Members of the Norwegian Nobel Committee,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today, in Afghanistan, a girl will be born.  
Her mother will hold her and feed her,  
comfort her and care for her –  
just as any mother would anywhere in the world.  
In these basic acts of human nature, humanity knows no  
divisions.

Ladies and Gentlemen,  
We have entered the third millennium through a gate of fire.  
Awareness of the bonds that bind us all – in pain as in prosperity  
– has gripped young and old.

In the 21st Century we must look beyond States,  
we must look beneath the surface of nations.  
We must focus on improving the conditions of men and women.  
We must begin with the young Afghan girl.  
Saving that one life is to save humanity itself.

In this new century, we must start from understanding  
Peace must be made real and tangible in the daily lives of  
every man and woman.

Distinguished guests,  
The notion that what is ours must conflict with what is  
theirs is both false and dangerous.  
It has resulted in endless enmity and conflict.  
It has led men to commit great crimes in the name of a  
higher power.

It need not be so.  
We *can* love what we are, without hating what we are *not*,  
without hating *who* we are not.

Your Majesties, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,  
The girl born in Afghanistan today  
Is just one test of our humanity –  
But it is the only test that matters.

For unaccompanied mixed choir  
with piano reduction for rehearsal only

Duration: 7 minutes

United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan was awarded the 2001 Nobel Peace Prize. The text for this piece is adapted from his Nobel Lecture given on December 10, 2001. The lecture text is [Copyright © 2001 by The Nobel Foundation, Stockholm, 2001](http://www.nobel.se/peace/laureates/2001/annan-lecture.html), and is used by permission. The complete text may be found at [www.nobel.se/peace/laureates/2001/annan-lecture.html](http://www.nobel.se/peace/laureates/2001/annan-lecture.html).

The premiere performance was given on February 8, 2003, by the William & Mary Choir under the direction of Dr. Constance DeFotis at the College of William & Mary's Charter Day celebration featuring Kofi Annan as guest speaker. The piece was selected as finalist in 2003 Briar Cliff University New Choral Music Competition. For information about composer Greg Bartholomew, visit [www.gregbartholomew.com](http://www.gregbartholomew.com).

## BURKE & BAGLEY

1284 North 53<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Seattle, WA 98103-6116  
Tel: 206.632.4487

EMAIL: [BurkeAndBagley@comcast.net](mailto:BurkeAndBagley@comcast.net)

# The 21st Century (A Girl Born in Afghanistan)

Dedicated to Kay Bellor, Keith Axelsen and the International Rescue Committee

Text adapted from the Nobel Lecture by Kofi Annan

Greg Bartholomew

$\text{♩} = 54$  *With great dignity*

**Soprano**  
Ah,

**Alto**  
Ah,

**Tenor**  
*mf*  
Your ma - jes - ties, Your roy - al high - ness - es, Ex - cel - len - cies,

**Bass**  
*p*  
Ah,

**Piano for rehearsal only**  
 $\text{♩} = 54$

**A**  $\text{♩} = 60$

**S.**  
*mp*  
Ah, La - dies and gen - tle - men,

**A.**  
*mp*  
Ah, La - dies and gen - tle - men,

**T.**  
*mf*  
Mem - bers of the Nor - we - gian No - bel Com - mit - tee, La - dies and gen - tle - men,

**B.**  
*mf*  
Mem - bers of the Nor - we - gian No - bel Com - mi - tee, La - dies and gen - tle - men,

**Pno**  
 $\text{♩} = 60$

7  $\text{♩} = 66$

S. *mp*  
To - day

A. *mf*  
To - day, To - day in Af - ghan - i - stan, a girl will be born.

T. *mp* *mf*  
To - day in Af - ghan - i - stan, a girl will be born.

B. *mp*  
To - day To - day

Pno  $\text{♩} = 66$

11 **B**  $\text{♩} = \text{♩}$

S. *pp*  
hold her and feed

A. *mp*  
Her mo - ther will hold her,

T. *pp*  
Her mo - ther will hold her and feed

B. *pp*  
Her Her mo - ther will hold and feed

Pno **B**  $\text{♩} = \text{♩}$

16

S. her, will com - fort her, *pp* and care for her. *p* Just as

A. will com - fort her, *mf* and care for her. *mp* (melody) Just as an - y

T. her, will com - fort her, *pp* and care for her.

B. her, and com - fort her. *p* Just as

Pno

21

S. an - y mo - ther would an - y where in the world. Ah

A. mo - ther would an - y - where in the world.

T. *mp* (melody) Just as an - y mo - ther would an - ywhere in the world.

B. an - y mo - ther would an - y where in the world.

Pno