

SUSPENDED SOMEWHERE BETWEEN A BOOK OF VERSE

Akbar Ahmed

Foreword by Daniel Futterman

Akbar Ahmed's *Suspended Somewhere Between* is a collection of poetry gathered from the author's youth through the present. A mosaic of Ahmed's life, this book of verse is personal with a vocal range from introspective and reflective to romantic and emotive to historical and political. The poems take the reader from the forbidding valleys and mountains of Waziristan in the tribal areas of Pakistan to the think tanks and halls of power in Washington, DC. Through it all, they carry the message of hope and compassion.

This collection, which spans half a century of writing, gives the reader a front-row seat to a world in turmoil. Can there be more drama than Ahmed's first memories as a boy of four on a train through the killing fields of North India in 1947? Or the breakup of Pakistan into two countries in 1971? In the midst of change and uncertainty exists the optimism and faith of a young man with confidence in the future while aware that perhaps the problems and challenges of the changing world would prove to be too great.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Akbar Ahmed is the Ibn Khaldun Chair of Islamic Studies, American University in Washington DC, the First Distinguished Chair of Middle East and Islamic Studies at the US Naval Academy, Annapolis, and a Nonresident Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution. He has taught at Princeton, Harvard, and Cambridge Universities and is considered "the world's leading authority on contemporary Islam" by the BBC.

He is the author of over a dozen award-winning books, including *Discovering Islam*, which was the basis of the BBC six-part TV series called *Living Islam*. His plays, *Noor* and *The Trial of Dara Shikoh* have been staged and published. His most recent book *Journey into America: The Challenge of Islam*, is an unprecedented study based in fieldwork of Muslims in America.

ACCOLADES

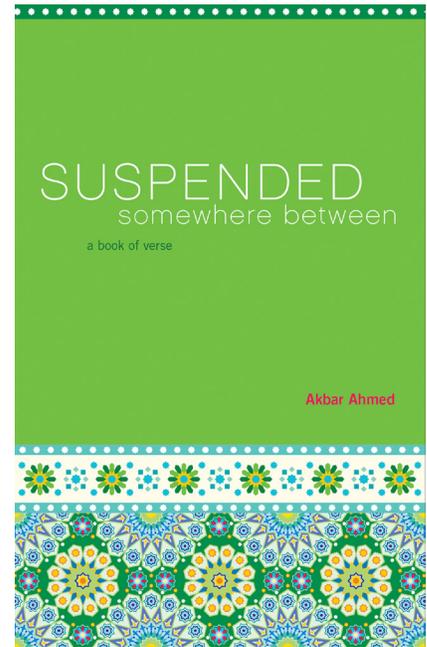
"Anyone wanting to understand Islam today must read Akbar Ahmed's collection. We are given rare glimpses into the dilemmas, pain, and despair but ultimately love and hope of Muslims through the verses of this true renaissance man."

—Greg Mortenson, author of *Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Promote Peace... One School at a Time*.



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