

# After Twenty Years



Outbound, Jules George, 2010

**A voice inside** a suit said *pack your bags*,  
And so we say farewell to war and sand:  
The same contended voice serenely brags  
Of what fine order we leave in a land  
It cannot quite locate upon a chart  
That shows the places nameless blood was spilt.  
Speaking out from the bottom of its heart,  
The voice praises the peace it says we built  
By our devotion, fearlessness and grace  
That banished lawlessness and made a nation  
Where lawlessness resumes its former place.  
But (says the voice) that distant situation  
Belongs to other wills and minds to mend.  
God bless the man who thought we were his friend.