

“Remember Cawnpore!”

*Dear Lady Canning wrote Queen Victoria  
Our thoughts are almost solely occupied with India.*

But what did the tiger know or care  
about thoughts or letters  
or chintz or watercolours?

*Moniza Alvi*

### Partition of Hearts

They called it the Partition of Hearts,  
this dark side of Independence.

Blame the British, blame Congress,  
blame Nehru, blame Jinnah.

But what was the point?

They called it the Partition of Hearts.

Yet connections had not been broken,  
not quite—

between Pakistan and India  
the living and the dead

the families and the missing  
the people and themselves.

They called it the Partition of Hearts—  
this Partition of reinforced glass.

*Moniza Alvi*