### **Indian Partition Poems**

### **Contemporary World Literature**

### **Zia Ather**

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| This poem is a response to the tragedy of the Indo-Pak Partition that Agha Shahid Ali invokes [in his poem “Learning Urdu”](https://www.poemhunter.com/poem/learning-urdu/) and also takes cue from another poem of [his titled “A Pastoral,”](https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/43274/a-pastoral) that speaks to postcolonial violence wrecked on the Kashmiri people, their language, and sovereignty. | Kashmir only bleeds in the district, nearwhat they insist is a borderthe dust is still uneasyon the graves, now only numbereddead-men’s shirtshang from the nearby treesuntired flags touched bykids too young to know poetrythe gash across the verdant bodynow even deeper, the glass mapof our country, broken stilli swear Shahid, i picked up where you leftin this long war of learningour Kashmir only bleeds – |

### **Fatimah Asghar**

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| This poem is a part of Asghar’s poetry collection *If They Come For Us.* The collection explores the legacy of Partition, compelling its readers to consider the impact of displacement and violence on multiple generations. Asghar weaves stories of love, solidarity, and community through a personal and collective South Asian history.  | Partition Ullu partitions the apartment in two—a thin blue wall cutting the deserted hallToys & books on our side,refrigerator, sink & TV with our Auntie A.She sends us rations throughout the day & we stayseparate, not allowed to cross. I’m 10& haven’t been hugged in a long time.Allah made a barrier between me & my mom.Ullu makes a barrier between me & my aunt.When he leaves we sit at the base of the blue wall& I laugh loud so Auntie A knowsI’m alive & okay & she laughs loud so I knowshe hasn’t left & we sit like this for hours, handspressed to the felt, laughing, laughing,unable to see each other. |