

Pakistan

Pakistan, they said to her

But what was Pakistan? a better life.

~~New country~~, a bolt-hole, a road of bars?

And where was it?

~~In two halves~~ over there... and ^{over} ~~there~~ ^{two halves} there...

In the securing of a sari
in the salting of lassi,

Pakistan

In the length of a plait

in the barking of an art,

Pakistan

Between the red and the black

between the fingers of each hand

Pakistan

It offered its soft or hard embrace,
persisted to the East and West

But it wasn't half empty
and what was there couldn't be purged away

Front paws, back paws -

~~a resting tiger, Pakistan~~ lay in wait
~~does a resting tiger lie in wait?~~ lay