

Fatima Jinnah Enters her Brother's Study

By Shadab Zeest Hashmi

In your study
a large shadow spun of thought

What the camera will catch:
a lizard between window slats
curtains sighing
their dusty sighs
on fine porcelain
mother of pearl inlay
and ivory-handled things
Then rain slanting in
on leather trimmed
gilt-edged things

The camera will feed on nonsense
while the shadow stretches
long waking hours filled with work
hanging in corners

between the lips of monsoon-sagged
maps
half rolled

holding
but a wish