

A Mother's Mirage follows the story of a powerful mother who crossed the India-Pakistan border during the partition times. I wrote this story to shed light on the significance of the partition, which stands as one of the bloodiest events in history. Despite its heavy impact, it remains largely absent from classroom discussions and historical discussions. However, when it is addressed, the partition is framed as a conflict driven by religious animosity, rather than acknowledging the 'divide and conquer' tactics employed by the British. The similarities between Pakistanis and Indians run deep, yet despite sharing so much, the two nations have been torn apart.

During the Partition, millions lost their lives, giving it the title of the 'bloodiest partition.' This story aims to put that staggering number into perspective and illuminate how just one death has such a profound impact on the world. Given my Pakistani Lineage, this story also heavily draws from experiences my grandparents faced during the partition, providing real descriptions of the events that occurred. In the novel the main character has to flee her home, forcing her to leave her dream of becoming a nurse behind. This was the harsh reality of most of those who had to cross the border, they not only left their belongings but they also had to leave their dreams incomplete. The novel also talks about how the main character's husband was a respectable police officer and was now working at a farm. Each event that occurred in the novel is a reflection of the disparities that were occurring in the partition.

The story draws inspiration from the renowned Pakistani poem "Ma ka Khwaab" (A Mother's Dream) by Allama Iqbal, a figure who played a pivotal role in the formation of Pakistan. The poem's significance resonates deeply within the narrative, highlighting the profound bond between a mother and her child. Additionally, poetry holds a cherished place in Pakistani culture.

While the novel includes cultural elements, it is not exclusively intended for a South Asian audience. Although South Asians, particularly Indians and Pakistanis, may deeply connect with the story, its purpose extends beyond them. It aims to reach readers who may be less familiar with the Partition, offering them insight into this significant, yet often overlooked, chapter of history. The main character was not given a name to allow readers to project themselves or others onto the protagonist, making the experience more universal and relatable.