

THE BRIDGE

VOLUME-III

Writings by contemporary writers from
Pakistan & Nigeria



THEME
RACE

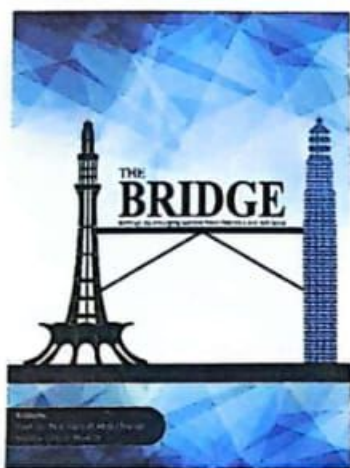
Editors
Aisha Umt Ur Rashid
Aishat Umar

THE BRIDGE is a visionary international anthology project that seeks to build literary causeways between writers writing in English around the globe. Emanating from Pakistan – which is at once an ancient set of cultures and a relatively new nation – the editors construct overpasses to and from other literary nations, far and near, through yearly publications, which each feature a different international connection. Volume 1 anthologizes poets and stories from Malaysia and Pakistan, while Volume 2 places poets and fiction writers from Pakistan and the US side by side. Volume 3 proposes an anthology of writers from Pakistan and Nigeria. At once transnationally far reaching and intimate, *THE BRIDGE* is the dream-child of author/intellectual Aisha Umt Ur Rashid of Lahore College for Women University, and it places far flung authors in conversation with each other on the page and beyond. A true act of literary service to writers and reader everywhere.

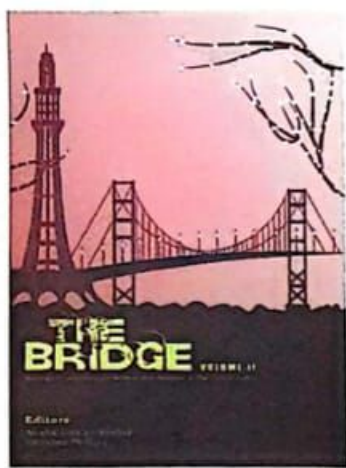
Stephanie Barbé Hammer, Pretend Plumber, City Slicker, Rescue Plan, Delicious Strangeness and The Puppet Turners of Narrow Interior

Bridge is doing an amazing job of connecting writers from around the world, and I'm super excited about their new volume that includes Nigerian and Pakistani writers! What an amazing and unique treat!

Dieter Bruhn



Volume-I



Volume-II

Virus | *Rizwan Akhtar*

Virus did not discriminate George Floyd
we did perhaps the virus is more open to
criticism there is an allegory in this show
of civilized care a verdict on our reason
we did something mixing bloods sifting
colour however the man underneath was
a mere soul on the suburbs of anonymity
there is no vaccination for discrimination—
people huddle inside homes in Kashmir
Biden says Armenian massacre was a
reality what Columbus & Company did was
neither a royal ritual of love in a forest
where Hester Prynne meets the dark man
in *The Scarlet Letter*—tell your children!
to laugh when it comes do not hold back
dimpled cheeks the skin is made to smile
the eyes are made to beam we can say
xenophobic angles were expelled that is
why Milton wrote *Paradise is Lost* because
God was not supposed to disinfect bodies.