

*The Ledge Between  
the Streams*

1984

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*THREADS OF  
LAHORE*

THE REIGN OF THE TOP QUEEN WAS THE best of all reigns," Bhabiji used to say to us. — "In her reign, people could walk on the streets wearing a lot of gold and no one would bother them. Such was the presence and authority of Queen Victoria." Bhabiji was our paternal grandmother, and she used to say that in any good city she'd heard of, the best road and the best walk always led up to the statue of the Top Queen, and the Top Queen always had the best-kept gardens surrounding her. Every day, morning and evening, Bhabiji used to go for a walk to the statue of the Top Queen in Lahore. Whichever of us grandchildren happened to be around would go with her—often six, eight, or twelve of us. Two of us would take her hands, and