

Round vs Straight, Part 1 & 2

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Part 1: On a guided walk across the South Downs

Round is...

A white memorial dome
standing tall, proud and majestic

the cycle of life

Birth – Death – Reincarnation

a circular journey

the joy of departure with no joy of return

an abundance of Eastern sun

left behind, unseen in months

a wonder of Mughal architecture, redefining construction

bulbous frames, scalloped archways and delicate ornamentation

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a connecting moment when someone tells you

“The blood of the warrior runs through you”

discovering Punjabis and Pathans took up arms

responded to the call of duty

Chattri: Hindi word for umbrella

protector in a dip in a valley.

Straight are...

the lines of Partition – division – separation

the opening lines of letters written in trenches: “Do not be anxious!”

the codes ‘black pepper’ for Indians, ‘red pepper’ for British

hospital beds inside the Royal Pavilion

the rows they stood in, for propaganda photo opportunity

Indian soldiers on the frontline, the rain, the trenches

linear the ultimate sacrifice, dying so far from home.

Part 2: On a guided tour of the Brighton Dome, Corn Exchange & Royal Pavilion**Round is**

Brighton Dome performance venue

Delighting audiences in musical rapture

Dome Hospital in World War 1

for wounded soldiers

floral windows adorning walls

(like henna decorated hands left behind)

letting the sun's rays pour in the East
disappearing in the West,

its warmth only touches the back of hands, faces
that once bathed in it.

The wounded soldier's turban
winding and draping a displaced head

arched rafters shelter stables
where European horses could perform

grand chandeliers hung with myriad tiny crystal droplets
illuminating the service of two million personnel.

Straight is...

the hospital beds in rows, white crisp sheets tucked into corners

the closely boarded fence – three feet high – containing convalescing soldiers

divisions of caste, gender and race

the horizon, an expanse of water dislocating and disorienting