

Goodbye Bengal

He packs and unpacks
the small suitcase.
It's time to leave
before the fresh air
runs out.

A change of underwear
stout shoes for the long journey
a hat for protection from the elements
the Qur'an, Tagore's *Sanchayita*.
A change of atmosphere.

He puts them in
and takes them out.
There is no room for both
holy book and poetry.
He puts one in
and leaves one out.