Fort Hood 2009

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“In Ramah is heard the sound of moaning,
of bitter weeping!
Rachel mourns her children,
She refuses to be consoled
Because her children are no more.”
(Jeremiah 31:15)

The roar of the ferocious enemy
Has ceased
   Bodies cover the field
All around lurks only
The stillness of death
   In the bloodshot eyes
   Of the dying day
The silent movement of the last bird

No tears irrigate the stoned cheeks
   No loud lament
   Not even a sigh
Rachel finds no consolation
   Refuses comfort
   Reeks of the stupor of life
Her children no more
   Her god an absent myth

Voices will be heard
   Babbling rhetorical blahs
Pious platitudes from left and right
Pointed fingers in empty accusations

   The brave soldiers who were
   Cut down will silently fly
   Before the silent memory of God
The living carry the burden of life.

Michael Costanzo