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Michael Costanzo
St. John Fisher College

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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 blabs
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