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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