

I Allowed Myself

A poem by Rev. Loren McGrail, written in response to the death of Baby Shayma during the 2014 siege on Gaza

I can live on bread alone
fragments of hope
tealights in a dark cave

Baby Shayma
born from her dead mother
was my miracle baby
She was my sign that death doesn't win
that resurrection is still possible

so when she died
in her state of the art donated incubator because
her oxygen was cut off
because they bombed the last power plant
I lost it
I let my faith go
like a kite without a string

I let myself sink
into a heap of blown up body parts of children,
sisters, brothers, mothers, fathers, uncles, aunts
I couldn't breathe

I allowed myself to sob, rock, and keen
to become her mother

I allowed myself to curse and finally to sing
her a lullaby while I pulled out
her tubes so I could
hug her one more time

I allowed myself to touch the horror of it all

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