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In the Mirror of Gaza

*And the earth, the hospitable earth
Is as a token to peace
F Farrokhzad*

1

Earth accepts the dead
with one and the same kindness
But the invader feels his tomb
too dark, too narrow to rest in it forever
while the defender finds his lost smile,
as a newborn in his mother's arms.

2

The worms gnawing at soft flesh
said to each other:
"We are the lucky generation.
Our fathers rarely had the chance
to eat so many dead children in a few days."
Finding a bullet in a corpse,
A worm asked with fear:
"What kind of baby is this one,
killed like a soldier?"
And the worm vomited and turned away.

3

Do you think you live in a house
with a roof and glass windows
and water running through pipes without ceasing?

Do you think your children are angels
for playing in the playground
or for sleeping sweetly in your arms?

Do you think the drugstore
full of medicine is open day and night
on the corner of the nearest street?

Do you think God is an idle man
still fighting against Satan as silly
as Don Quixote fighting against windmills?

Turn on the TV and see
your karma in Gaza's news:
those who ignore the Other's pain.