

# Rafah

(for Rachel Corrie and Tom Hurndall)

There's a gap in the line of graduates  
On the stage, there's an empty place  
Black clad women form an honor guard  
Around an aching, silent space

Rachel, you left your classroom  
Half a world away, you took your stand  
To learn about the price of justice  
Hard lessons in a harsh land

You stood before the threatened house  
Facing tanks, you held your ground  
Young soldier in the 'dozer  
Did he meet your eye  
As he ran you down?

*CHORUS:* In Rafah, dusty Rafah  
Where the children run in packs  
Shouting "What's your name? What's your name?"  
And war is the only game  
On the border where the tanks attack  
In the rubble and the razor wire  
The sniper towers open fire  
On Rafah

Tom, you came to that shattered town  
To witness with your artist's eye  
To find a way to show the world the truth  
And change it, or at least to try

Children playing when the gunfire starts  
You run to them through iron rain  
What do you look like through the rifle scope  
As the trigger's pulled to put  
A bullet in your brain?

*CHORUS:* In Rafah, bleeding Rafah  
Where the children run in packs  
Shouting "What's your name? What's your name?"  
And war is the only game  
On the border where the tanks attack  
In the rubble and the razor wire  
The sniper towers open fire  
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*(cont'd)*

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Lyrics: Starhawk;

Devachan Music (BMI)

Music: Mark Simos

info@songsofconscience.com

www.starhawk.org

www.songsofconscience.com and www.devachan.com

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Rachel, your friends step to the podium  
Smile and shake the chancellor's hand  
While your diploma is your martyr's poster  
On a pockmarked wall in a bleeding land

And the houses fall, and the death toll climbs  
All in the name of security  
And the tanks crush dreams and promises  
Of what this aching land could be

Where all the legions of the unnamed dead  
Cannot yet bring the barriers down  
How many tears, how much blood shed?  
What will it take  
To free this bitter ground?

*CHORUS:* In Rafah, bleeding Rafah  
Where the children run in packs  
Shouting "What's your name? What's your name?"  
And war is the only game  
On the border where the tanks attack  
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Rafah, dusty Rafah  
Rafah