12 year-old who found her whole family dead (July 2007)

five bodies sunbathe
on the Gaza coast
dusty they lay out on the
beach like archeological ruins
s a n d
drips out
ears
sticks to lips
suffocates
remains
left for

Huda
12 year old
daughter,
sister,
niece
the girl
grabs
fistfuls of sand
avalanches
into her mouth
hands raised pours
the same

sand
stuck in the
open flesh
blood
dust
clumps
desiccate
blood
inside
gaping
abrasions
of her father
mother
brothers
sister
uncle
a puddle of
dehydrated
blood
scraps of skin

in her mouth
sand
clumps
with saliva

gasping
gaping

no screams come out

she keeps

Digging
to hide from missiles

Digging

into silence

Digging

underneath

a black dishdesha

black hijab

black gloves

Digging

Digging

a hole large enough

to bury

herself

alive

beneath

sand