

KEEPING ACCOUNT

Chani Gomes

Poetry

1.

The man without a coat to his name
has to hunt.

He becomes a savage beast,
Hunting for his next meal.
For every meal.

2.

The woman pushed to the ground
again by her loving husband.

Unable to get up
her fractured leg,
her shattered rib,
her broken heart,
Yet she stays, she cannot leave.
She has no choice
if she wants to survive.

3.

The boy who's chased down
thrown onto his back
beaten.

They take turns. Make it a game.
Nose bloody, eyes swollen,
a princess sticker torn from his backpack,
stomped into the hard ground.
It wasn't his choice.
None of this was his choice.

4.

The young girl,

A child of war.

Loses sleep,

she lost her dad.

She imagines the last sound he heard

as the bombs fell like rain on their camp.

She flinches. She cries.

Tears pool in her eyes,

she shakes the sound from her head,

but it soon is replaced with the image of his

lifeless body,

forever haunting her memory.

5.

These accounts

are forever without end.