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ZAKIAH ALIYA KASSAM

There amidst the crumbled stones
and shattered ruins
I stood alone
among women the last of a proud line
that defended the walls of a fortress
once so mighty
but now little more than
blackened rubble.
I tried, my friend,
I fought and fought
against the forces that threatened to
overwhelm
not only me
but the thousand other warriors
who bravely stood by my side
but I could not win.
I could not prevent
the onslaught that killed my sisters
and wounded so many more.
Knocked down
I lay motionless,
staring up at the nameless faces
that so determinedly
rushed to surround the fortress.
Intent on conquering,
so blindly seeking triumph
that they did not stop
and wonder at the ocean of bodies
trampled upon by muddy boots.
Do they not see?
Do they not see the resurrection of
a thousand warriors who now stand
proudly?
Immovable they are as they stand
swords in hand
defending in spirit
a fortress that shall stand
forever.

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