

August 6, 2006

**“When Daniel sleeps the whole world sleeps”**

Tonight is Daniel’s second night in the ground, Daniel sleeps and he doesn’t dream about battles in southern Lebanon and fire shot at him that kills him. Daniel sleeps under a pile of flowers. Flowers from Golani and from the North Command. From his father’s hospital and from the city of Haifa. Daniel has been sleeping for almost 48 hours, since his eyes were shut closed for the last time.

**“A little bird in the nest and probably the sun too,  
The wind won’t whistle a tree won’t sing for him”**

Daniel sleeps and he doesn’t know that the doctor who tried to reach him passed away, Daniel won’t know that his friends couldn’t make it to the funeral because the war was still going on. Daniel sleeps and doesn’t know that the whole world cries for him now. Daniel sleeps, and he didn’t hear his father speaking, the honor shots in the air didn’t wake him up, not even the awful crying sounds from the audience when his father spoke about the last time they saw him.

**“Only a distant shadow of a star winks from above  
when Daniel sleeps”**

Daniel was born 20 years ago in the spring of 86’. They promised the children of that spring too, that when they grow up they won’t have to go to the army. Daniel was a cute baby, a child, a handsome soldier. Daniel will never be an adult. He will never grow old. He will always stay 20 years old. Daniel wanted to be a combat soldier; he insisted and finally got a high medical profile. Daniel joined Golani on November 2004.

**“When Daniel sleeps two golden butterflies  
Hoe dimples of grace in his rosy chicks”**

Daniel sleeps, and he didn’t feel it when they put his coffin in the ground. Daniel won’t see his sister grow up. Daniel has two little siblings, two parents and grandparents too. Now he has a casualty officer and a grave in the military cemetery. Now he’s sleeping in the ground. Daniel doesn’t dream about life after the army and a trip to South America. He doesn’t dream about battles in Lebanon and fire that kills him. Daniel sleeps, and he will never dream again.

**“And angels at his feet  
Guarding the dream he’s dreaming now  
When Daniel sleeps  
Daniel sleeps  
Daniel sleeps”**

September 18, 2006

**“What are you, an idiot? How can you not know this game? I don’t believe you do not know this game. It’s called, "He'll never", and that is the game everyone plays when a friend gets killed. You throw out his name, and everyone has to complete the sentence and say what he'll never do anymore. Here's an example”-:**

**(If there’s Heaven (Beaufort) by Ron Leshem)**

Daniel will never come home for the weekend. Daniel will never know that there was a ceasefire, nor will he know how many we lost after he was killed. Daniel did not get out of Lebanon when Israel withdrew from Lebanon for the second time. Daniel will never be a “pazamnik” (senior soldier) that does not have to work in the kitchen and stand guard all day. Daniel will never return his equipment in the bakum on discharge .Daniel will not fly to South America or India to “find himself”. Daniel will never go to the university, even though he could have gotten far in life. Daniel will never find the cure for cancer or AIDS.

Daniel will never know how the battle in Markabe ended; he will never know that the doctor who tried to reach him was killed together with his friend Omri or that his commander was seriously injured .Daniel will never know how his platoon came to his home straight from Lebanon, and told his parents what happened there. Daniel will never know how many people sat in his room in the “shiva” and talked only about him. Daniel will never know how everyone cried when his father described at the funeral the last time he walked out of his sight.

Daniel will never see his sister growing up and will never meet her first boyfriend. He will never decide if he is good enough for her or not; and he will not even be there when she celebrates her “Bat mitzvah”. Daniel will never see his brother join the army; nor will he laugh at him because he is a jobnik (non-combat), because he will be a jobnik only because of him. Daniel will never fall in love, or get married or have children. He will never know how the girls from his class cried in front of his fresh grave, and how his friends from Golani told his parents how great he was.

Daniel will never know that the saying “time heals” is not true, because even eternity will not heal this pain. Daniel will never know how everyone cried at the end of the “shiva” and “shloshim” ,as if it has not been a month since he died. And all the things they did in his memory, he will never see. Daniel will never know how everyone cries and misses him so much, while they continue to think about all the things he will never do.

The letter was written by one of our friends’ daughter.