

## Dirt (for the Korean military sex slaves of WWII)

By Margaret Stetz<sup>1</sup>

They were not dirt  
though carted like excrement  
hauled off by trucks  
packed onto ships  
and crammed into stalls  
with only a bucket, a mat.

They were not dirt  
though called  
“p” or *kyodo benjo*—  
“public toilets”  
for soldiers  
“relieving” themselves.

They were not dirt  
though shoveled in mounds  
not graves  
at the end of the War  
to cover their gaping orifices  
into which pain was forced,  
out of which blood was drained.

They were not dirt  
though meant for the rain to dissolve,  
the wind to disperse,  
and insects to seize in a final rape.

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They were not dirt  
but their corpses, their stories  
have now become clay.

Will you use it  
to build them their monument?