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The power of numbers

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The power of numbers

by
Sumeia Williams

Decades passed before I could grasp
the concept beyond
the lifting of (over) 3000 children
plus the deaths of some 58000 Americans
equals
a pledge of allegiance to one nation
under God, indivisible
It only took 2 angry fathers (minus 2 sons)
plus 1 word (gook)\(^1\)
to bury 20 years of America’s
military involvement in Vietnam

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beneath my skin
and throw the whole thing
out of balance

About the Author

Sumeia Williams was born in Saigon, Vietnam in 1970. Formerly Le Thi Buu Tran, she was adopted and brought to the US as an infant. Inspired by a handful of unapologetic, brutally honest members of the Korean adoptee community, she began documenting her experiences as a Vietnamese adoptee and Asian American woman on a blog named "Ethnically Incorrect Daughter" (http://ethnicallyincorrect.wordpress.com/). She currently lives in Texas where she continues her career as a mom, sporadic writer, artist and advocate for adoptee rights. Her work has appeared both online and in print in publications such as The New York Times, Nha Magazine, Pacific Citizen, Adoption Australia and Tuổi Trẻ.