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Did You?

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Did you walk, run, trot
down the dirt packed road
smelling the rich, pungent incense
of nuoc mam or pho

Did you work wearing a mua
the straw hat shading your face as
you pulled rice, hunched
in ankle deep water
until your hands bled
picking your way to \$2 a day

Did you let your long hair cascade
between your shoulder blades
silky and smooth

Did you stop going to school
Did you ever go to school

Did you walk through
the war torn streets
of children crying out
for mothers already lost
Fading

You stayed in Vietnam
They left: sisters, brothers, wives, children
to an unfamiliar place
dangerous, new, smuggled

You had to stay behind
walking the dirt packed road
now filled with the memories
of what used to be

Did you
Do you
Have you
lived your life.