

This Happened

A shepherd in Afghanistan spotted
a young girl's head lying in the new grass.

He wanted to bury it, give her soul
rest. He picked her head up, gazed for one
moment straight into her open brown eyes.
It weighed ten kilos. Too heavy, he thought.

Next second it exploded. His five sons
could find no body parts to wash, anoint,

say the old words over, bury. Allah,
be merciful to him, her, them, us all.