

Joshua Sassoon Orol

Minyan

מנין

When a man is in mourning
nine others are needed
before he can say out loud
that god is good.

It is forbidden for a man
to hold a blade
even a safety razor
against his own neck.

It is expected that he will pray
with his hair covered
by both kippah and shawl.

I get the call
in front of the full length mirror—
Hey man we need a tenth

trap the phone against my shoulder
and fondle the gelled breasts
filling out my borrowed bra
finger the high slit
on my calfskin skirt.

One more grieving man.
Will I not let him weep?

Joshua Sassoon Orol is a trans Jewish poet from Raleigh, NC. Joshua completed an MFA at NC State University, and received an Academy of American Poets prize while at UNC Chapel Hill. Their work has most recently been published or is forthcoming in *Driftwood Press*, *THE HUNGER*, *Mizmor*, and *Nimrod*.