

When You Look the Other Way

by Darryl Price

does it satisfy your God?
When you make the decision
to lie to our questions, does
it feel good? When your faith is
in nothing, does the money
buy you happiness? The Beatles
once said, fun is the one

thing that money can't buy. They
were crucified for it, but
kept alive to satisfy
the manufacturing of
a certain fruit stand's appeal
among the potholes on the
streets of your town. When you look

as if you've never witnessed
an ancient tree in a plowed-
up forest, do you still get
a special thrill to rip the
innocent flowers out of
their only homes with a sub-
machine gun stuck in their defenseless

little faces? Oh,
black birds are watching everything
you do. They're writing an
observational history
with generations of their

wings. I wonder who will read
it all and weep for mankind?

When you look the other way
and pretend it's turning the
other cheek, do you feel the
grave pull of the wheel as it
mercilessly squeezes the life
blood out of your free thought and
will? We are not their slaves just

because they want it that way.
We have to want war, too. When
you look the other way, kindness
dies. You must speak up, not
always down, out, not just inward,
but in all directions.
When you look the other way,

you are closing your legs to
ever walking again. A
poem is just a hand print
defacing a wall. A noise
among all the other noises.
But also something more.
Something new that you can use.

