

## Billy with the Bad Eyes

When Billy was young, they discovered he had bad eyes.  
When he looked at other people, instead of seeing them, Billy saw himself.

When Billy went to school and the big kids told him to kick the small kid,  
he couldn't do it, because, in the small kid, Billy saw himself.

When Billy went to a baseball game and they told him to curse at the other team's players,  
he couldn't do it, because, in the other team's players, Billy saw himself.

When Billy wanted a girlfriend and they told him not to date someone of another color,  
he did it anyway, because, in people of other colors, Billy saw himself.

When Billy turned eighteen and they told him not to vote for the other candidate,  
he did it anyway, because, in the other candidate, Billy saw himself.

When Billy graduated from college and they told him not to socialize with those who hadn't,  
he did it anyway, because, in those who hadn't graduated from college, Billy saw himself.

When Billy went to war and his commanding officer told him to shoot at the enemy,  
he couldn't do it, because, in the enemy, Billy saw himself.

When Billy got a job and his boss told him to fire the under-performing employee,  
he couldn't do it, because, in the under-performing employee, Billy saw himself.

When Billy's boss told him to hire a new employee, but not the one who had been in prison,  
he did it anyway, because, in the one who had been in prison, Billy saw himself.

When Billy wanted to buy a house and they told him not to look in certain "poor" neighborhoods,  
he did it anyway, because, in the people of "poor" neighborhoods, Billy saw himself.

When Billy wanted to make new friends and his neighbors told him not to trust rich people,  
he did it anyway, because, in rich people, Billy saw himself.

Billy's bad eyes got worse as he aged.

When Billy gathered people to pray with him and they told him not to invite gays, sluts, and people of  
other religions, he did it anyway, because, in gays, sluts, and people of other religions, Billy saw himself.

By the time Billy died, his bad eyes had gotten him kicked out of the group, the gang, the team, the  
family, the party, the club, the army, the company, the neighborhood, and the congregation.

Blind, they called him. And they did not go to Billy's funeral, where the line of people who had loved him  
was too long.

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