

I COULD HAVE SAVED A LIFE THAT DAY

I could have saved a life that day,
But I chose to look the other way.
It wasn't that I didn't care;
I had the time, and I was there.

But I didn't want to seem the fool,
Or argue over a safety rule.
I knew he had done the job before.
If I called it wrong, he might get sore.

The chances didn't seem that bad.
I've done the same; he knew I had.
So I shook my head and walked on by.
He knew the risks as well as I.

He took the chance; I closed an eye.
And with that act, I let him die.
I could have saved a life that day,
But I chose to look the other way.

Now every time I see his wife,
I'll know I should have saved his life.
That guilt is something I must bear,
But it isn't something you need to
share.

If you see a risk that others take,
That puts their health or life at stake,
The question asked or things you say
Could help them live another day.

If you see a risk and walk away,
Then hope you never have to say:
I could have saved a life that day,
But I chose to look the other way.

—Don Merrell

July 13, 2010

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