

Next to Nothing to Do

I

after praying
and candle light rituals
after anger, tears, speculations,
after finger pointing,
and calls for sanity,
after social media
unleashes its bytes
of how we see it,
before damage settles
in as change,
before grieving
grows numb and cold
evolution reveals a new
distraction for masses
wallowing in a
current angst.

II

That's how it is in this
tricked out
fast tracked
multi tasked America
- of lack of attention spans,
and jerry springer show
like impulse control.
We're a melting pot of
vehemence
seasoned with a
pungent desire
for the best thing yet.

III

we start off on the orb
as beings fixated
on a heart opening wide
life
and end up
facing off against
humans afflicted by
pernicious heart wounds
wars ensue
broken pieces of
hearts taint futures
damage spans generations
circles break
over the smallest insult
children die – children
die every day – every day
children will tell you
someone raises hands
raises guns, raises Cain
a child dies – every day
everywhere -
I've heard a child say
and *there's really*
nothing we can
do about it
nothing to do.

Linda Joy Burke
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Written in response to the shootings in Connecticut, and after viewing the following program on Frontline. [The Interrupters](#). (embedded hyperlink)