

# Williams, The Parable of the Blind

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 [english.emory.edu/classes/paintings&poems/blind.html](http://english.emory.edu/classes/paintings&poems/blind.html)

## The Parable of the Blind

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William Carlos Williams

This horrible but superb painting  
the parable of the blind  
without a red

in the composition shows a group  
of beggars leading  
each other diagonally downward

across the canvas  
from one side  
to stumble finally into a bog

where the picture  
and the composition ends back  
of which no seeing man

is represented the unshaven  
features of the des-  
titute with their few

pitiful possessions a basin  
to wash in a peasant  
cottage is seen and a church spire

the faces are raised  
as toward the light  
there is no detail extraneous

to the composition one  
follows the others stick in  
hand triumphant to disaster

Pieter Brueghel, The Parable of the Blind (1568)

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Oil on canvas, approximately 34 inches x 61 inches. Museo e Gallerie Nazionali de Capodimonte, Naples.

