

# Good People

By W. S. Merwin

From the kindness of my parents  
I suppose it was that I held  
that belief about suffering

imagining that if only  
it could come to the attention  
of any person with normal  
feelings certainly anyone  
literate who might have gone

to college they would comprehend  
pain when it went on before them  
and would do something about it  
whenever they saw it happen  
in the time of pain the present  
they would try to stop the bleeding  
for example with their own hands

but it escapes their attention  
or there may be reasons for it  
the victims under the blankets  
the meat counters the maimed children  
the animals the animals  
staring from the end of the world

Source: Poetry (Poetry)