

Musée des Beaux Arts Theme

Writer: W. H. Auden | Generated: Jan 26, 2026

Themes

- **Human Indifference to Suffering:** The poem shows that people ignore others' pain. Life continues even when tragedy happens. Auden says human nature easily forgets others' suffering and stays busy with daily life.
- **Ordinary Life beside Tragedy:** Auden contrasts suffering with normal life. While someone suffers, others keep working or playing. This shows the gap between individual pain and the world's routine.
- **The Role of Art and the Old Masters:** The Old Masters understood human truth. Their paintings show how suffering is part of life. Art helps us see pain and indifference side by side.
- **The Smallness of Human Tragedy:** Auden shows that even great pain looks small to the world. Icarus falls, yet no one stops. The world forgets quickly.