



[Home](#) > [Poems & Poets](#) > [Browse Poems](#) > [Tell all the truth but tell it slant — \(1263\)](#)

## Tell all the truth but tell it slant — (1263)

BY EMILY DICKINSON

Tell all the truth but tell it slant —  
Success in Circuit lies  
Too bright for our infirm Delight  
The Truth's superb surprise  
As Lightning to the Children eased  
With explanation kind  
The Truth must dazzle gradually  
Or every man be blind —

Reprinted by permission of the publishers and the Trustees of Amherst College from *THE POEMS OF EMILY DICKINSON: READING EDITION*, edited by Ralph W. Franklin, ed., Cambridge, Mass.: The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, Copyright © 1998, 1999 by the President and Fellows of Harvard College. Copyright © 1951, 1955, 1979, 1983 by the President and Fellows of Harvard College.

Source: *The Poems of Emily Dickinson: Reading Edition* (The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 1998)

---

### RELATED CONTENT

Discover this poem's context and related poetry, articles, and media.

POET

[Emily Dickinson](#)

SUBJECTS

[Arts & Sciences, Philosophy](#)

POET'S REGION

[U.S., New England](#)

Report a problem with this poem.

# POETRY

The oldest monthly devoted to verse in the English language.



[June 2016 Table of Contents](#)

[Buy This Issue](#)

[Subscribe to \*Poetry\* Magazine](#)

[Browse All Issues Back to 1912](#)