

## AIGELTINGER

In the bare trees old husks make new designs  
 Love moves the crows before the dawn  
 The cherry-sun ushers in the new phase

The radiant mind  
 addressed by tufts of flocking pear blossoms  
 proposes new profundities to the soul

Deftness stirs in the cells  
 of Aigeltinger's brain which flares  
 like ribbons round an electric fan  
 This is impressive, he will soon proclaim  
 God!

And round and round, the winds  
 and underfoot, the grass  
 the rose-cane leaves and blackberries  
 and Jim will read the encyclopedia to his  
 new bride - gradually

Aigeltinger you have struck in my conk  
 illuminating, for nearly half a century I  
 could never beat you at your specialty

Nothing has ever beaten a mathematician  
 but yeast

The cloudless sky takes the sun in its periphery  
 and slides its disc across the blue

They say I'm not profound

But where is profundity, Aigeltinger  
 mathematical genius

dragged drunk from some cheap bar to serve their petty purposes?

Aigeltinger, you were profound

- William Carlos Williams

William Carlos Williams, M.D. (1883-1963), was a general practitioner and pediatrician who lived and practiced in Rutherford, N.J. He won the first National Book Award for poetry and a posthumous Pulitzer Prize for his last collection of poems. He is regarded as one of the most important American poets of the twentieth century; he also wrote fiction, plays, and essays. "Aigeltinger" remembers a mathematically gifted classmate at Horace Mann School in New York City.