

in the land of the blind, the one-eyed man is king

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English

Alternative forms

- [in the country of the blind, the one-eyed man is king](#)
- [in the valley of the blind, the one-eyed man is king](#)

Etymology

From Latin [in regione caecorum rex est luscus](#), credited to Desiderius Erasmus's *Adagia* (1500).

A similar (yet much earlier, dating to the 4th or 5th century CE) [turn of phrase](#), and Erasmus' possible inspiration, appears in the [Genesis Rabbah](#) as "בשוק סמייא צוחין לעוירא סגי נהו", meaning "In the street of the blind, the one-eyed man is called the Guiding Light".

Proverb

[in the land of the blind, the one-eyed man is king](#)

1. Even someone with limited [abilities or opportunities](#) is dominant over, and considered special by, those who have even fewer abilities and opportunities; the value of any ability depends on its commonness.

Translations

[±In the land of the blind, the one-eyed man is king](#)

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Further reading

-  [Desiderius Erasmus](#) on Wikiquote.

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