

## Modus Operandi

-- for Howard Zinn

The plain raw fact of the matter is  
You can't please all of the people  
all of the time. No.  
And not even all of the people  
some of the time. Or  
some of the people all of the  
time.

Most likely  
you won't please any of the people  
any of the time. So  
please yourself.

Emerson had the right idea, though  
he might not have understood  
just why. As for  
Henry David Thoreau,  
he knew.

## In the Middle of the Journey

Under the green umbrella of time  
a yellowing stalk  
caught in the current between  
then and when  
stretches toward the sun  
arches toward the sun  
uncurls its withered edges  
straining toward the light  
And is stunted by the shock  
that so long a shadow could be cast  
by such a green umbrella

-- Esta Seaton

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## The Literary Times

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