

SATIRE

Edgar Allan Poe

(1809-1849)

from "The Tone Transcendental" (c.1841)

A little reading of the *Dial* [edited by Emerson and Margaret Fuller] will carry you a great way. Eschew, in this case, big words; get them as small as possible, and write them upside down....Put in something about the Supernal Oneness. Don't say a syllable about the Infernal Twoness. Above all, study innuendo. Hint everything--assert nothing. If you feel inclined to say "bread and butter," do not by any means say it outright. You may say everything *approaching* to "bread and butter." You may hint at buckwheat cake, or you may even go so far as to insinuate oat-meal porridge, but if bread and butter be your real meaning, be cautious, my dear Miss Psyche.

Edgar Allan Poe