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# **Ralph Waldo Emerson** (1803-1882)

(New England Transcendentalist thinker, poet and essayist, came from an Unitarian family; st. Harvard College; soon widowed, wife Ellen Tucker Emerson d. 1831 of tuberculosis; abandoned his position as Unitarian minister, m. Lydia Jackson, founded Transcendentalism with Margaret Fuller, Bronson Alcott, Theodore Parker, and Henry David Thoreau, editor of The Dial 1842-44; influential and prolific lecturer and diarist, emphasizes first-hand apprehension of religion and experience)

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