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by Dr. Seuss

From *The Sneetches and Other Stories*

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One day, making tracks  
In the prairie of Prax,  
Came a North-Going Zax  
And a South-Going Zax.

And it happened that both of them came to a place  
Where they bumped. There they stood.  
Foot to foot. Face to face.

“Look here, now!” the North-Going Zax said, “I say!  
You are blocking my path. You are right in my way.  
I’m a North-Going Zax and I always go north.  
Get out of my way, now, and let me go forth!”

“Who’s in whose way?” snapped the South-Going Zax.  
“I always go south, making south-going tracks.  
So you’re in MY way! And I ask you to move  
And let me go south in my south-going groove.”

Then the North-Going Zax puffed his chest up with pride.  
“I never,” he said, “take a step to one side.  
And I’ll prove to you that I won’t change my ways  
If I have to keep standing here fifty-nine days!”

“And I’ll prove to YOU,” yelled the South-Going Zax,  
“That I can stand here in the prairie of Prax for fifty-nine years!  
For I live by a rule  
That I learned as a boy back in South-Going School.  
Never budge! That’s my rule. Never budge in the least!  
Not an inch to the west! Not an inch to the east!  
I’ll stay here, not budging! I can and I will  
If it makes you and me and the whole world stand still!”

Well...

Of course the world didn’t stand still. The world grew.  
In a couple of years, the new highway came through  
And they built it right over those two stubborn Zax  
And left them there, standing un-budged in their tracks.

**If that isn’t a description of human dimensions I don’t know what is – Alan Miller**

*The Zax* is a lesson about the importance of compromise. (Referenced from Wikipedia)