

Contents

<i>Introduction: The Mythology of Imagination</i>	15
1. <i>Whitman's Supreme Fiction: The Real Me</i>	21
"Song of Myself"	27
Preface: The Supreme Fiction Must Be Abstract	28
Sections 1-5	35
The Action: It Must Give Pleasure	48
Sections 6-19	50
Sections 20-30	54
Sections 31-38	62
Sections 39-47	71
Closure: It Must Change	84
Sections 48-52	84
"The Sleepers"	85
"As I Ebb'd with the Ocean of Life"	92
"So Long!"	99
2. <i>The Hero Afoot with His Vision</i>	102
"Song of the Open Road"	103
"Crossing Brooklyn Ferry"	106
"Out of the Cradle Endlessly Rocking"	113
"When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloom'd"	120
3. <i>Stevens' Muse: The One of Fictive Music</i>	129
"To the One of Fictive Music"	131
"It Must Give Pleasure"	140
"The Owl in the Sarcophagus"	159

4. <i>The Poet in the Sun</i>	167
In 1935: The Hero on the Horizon	169
"Like Decorations in a Nigger Cemetery"	169
From 1942 to 1955: Experience in Perihelion	177
<i>Notes toward a Supreme Fiction</i>	179
"The Bouquet"	194
Two Symbols: Giant and Ancestor	201
5. <i>Whitman and Stevens: Nature in the Form of a Man</i>	208
"The Auroras of Autumn"	215
"The Rock"	224
<i>Index of Stevens' Works</i>	233
<i>Index of Whitman's Works</i>	235
<i>General Index</i>	236