

Contents

A Prelude to Gnosis, 3

1. Agon: Revisionism and Critical Personality, 16
2. Lying Against Time: Gnosis, Poetry, Criticism, 52
3. Catastrophe Creation: Gnosis, Kabbalah, and Blake, 72
4. Freud and the Sublime:
A Catastrophe Theory of Creativity, 91
5. Freud's Concepts of Defense and the Poetic Will, 119
6. Emerson: The American Religion, 145
7. Whitman's Image of Voice: To the Tally of My Soul, 179
8. *Clinamen*: Towards a Theory of Fantasy, 200
9. The Sublime Crossing and the Death of Love, 224
10. Wallace Stevens: A Poem of Our Gnosis, 246
11. Hart Crane's Gnosis, 252
12. Measuring the Canon:
John Ashbery's *Wet Casements* and *Tapestry*, 270
13. John Hollander's *Spectral Emanations*:
The Menorah as the White Light of Trope, 289
14. Free and Broken Tablets:
The Cultural Prospects of American Jewry, 318
15. Coda: The American Difference in Poetry and Criticism, 330