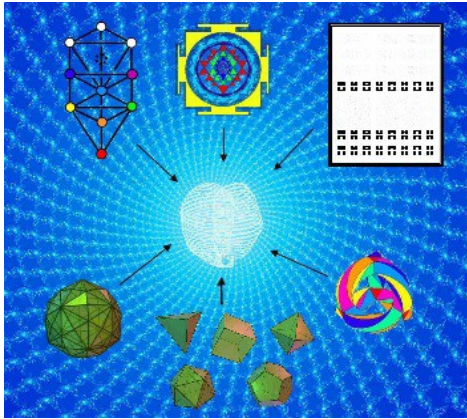
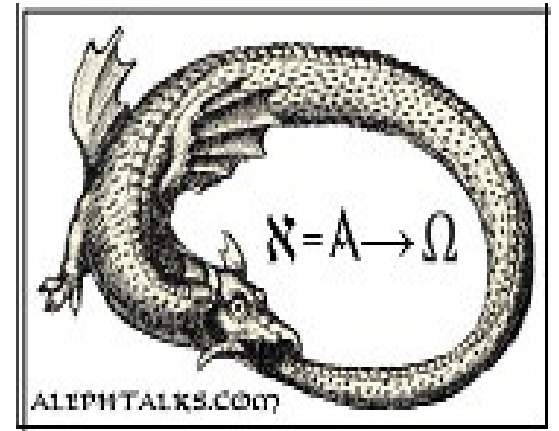


Mysticism: Where Science, Art, and Religion Meet



Subject Four
Mysticism East and West
Poetry of Walt Whitman
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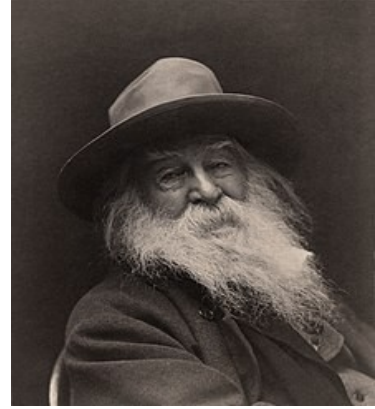


Song of Myself



- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VjMoRb5f-EQ&t=32s>
- **Wikipedia:** Initially self published in 1855, the poem is written in Whitman's signature free verse style. Whitman, who praises words "as simple as grass" (section 39) forgoes standard verse and stanza patterns in favor of a simple, legible style that can appeal to a mass audience.
- Critics have noted a strong Transcendentalist influence on the poem. For instance (Section 32), Whitman expresses a desire to "live amongst the animals" and to find divinity in the insects.
- In addition to this romanticism, the poem seems to anticipate a kind of realism that would only become important in United States literature after the American Civil War.

Song of Myself



- In the following 1855 passage, for example, we can see Whitman's inclusion gritty details of everyday life:
- The lunatic is carried at last to the asylum a confirm'd case,
- (He will never sleep any more as he did in the cot in his mother's bed-room;)
- The jour printer with gray head and gaunt jaws works at his case,
- He turns his quid of tobacco while his eyes blurr with the manuscript;
- The malform'd limbs are tied to the surgeon's table,
- What is removed drops horribly in a pail;
- The quadroon girl is sold at the auction-stand, the drunkard nods by the bar-room stove, ... (section 15)

I Sing the Body Electric



- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V3LDpCH3_eM
- **Wikipedia:** "I Sing the Body Electric" was used by author Ray Bradbury as the title of both a 1969 short story and the book it appeared in (I Sing the Body Electric!). Prior to his book, Bradbury used the title of "I Sing the Body Electric" for a 1962 episode he wrote for The Twilight Zone.
- I Sing the Body Electric was the second album released by the Jazz Fusion band Weather Report in 1972.
- In the 1980 film Fame, the students sing a song called "I Sing the Body Electric," inspired by this poem, at their graduation ceremony.
- In the 1988 movie Bull Durham, Susan Sarandon's character reads the poem "I Sing the Body Electric" to Tim Robbins' character