

Whitman's sources in Laurens P. Hickok

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Laurens P. Hickok. *Rational psychology: or, The subjective idea and the objective laws of all intelligence*. Originally published (Auburn, 1848); reprinted, (Schenectady,: G. Y. Van Debogert, 1854).

Common trope	"Song of Myself" (1855)	<i>Rational Psychology</i> (1849, 1852)
every step of ascent equals ages	<p>My feet strike an apex of the apices of the stairs, On every step bunches of ages, and larger bunches between the steps...</p>	<p>We come along up from this great depth to which we have descended and reach the lower sepulchers in which the earliest dead lie entombed, and from thence we pass along by the myriads of once living beings preserved in their forms beyond the skill of all embalming, while at every step of our ascent we pass above entire species of animals, which had run on through many generations and then died out utterly in the extinction of the race, and another put anew within nature as its successor in time but without any geneological connection. [697]</p>
the void; generations above/behind us; sleeping for countless ages/death; typical reference to gneiss, mica, and granite; passing away of ages; accumulations	<p>Do you guess I have some intricate purpose? Well I have . . . for the April rain has, and the mica on the side of a rock has... ...I find I incorporate gneiss and coal... Rise after rise bow the phantoms behind me, Afar down I see the huge first Nothing, the vapor from the nostrils of death, I know I was even there . . . I waited unseen and always, And slept while God carried me through the lethargic mist, And took my time . . . and took no hurt from the foetid carbon.</p>	<p>...The Cambrian formation receives us still lower down, and here we stand with all the generations of life above us, worlds on worlds which have for countless ages slept in death, and read around us only the records of material nature ere life was given or death began its reign. Mica schist, in stratifications of many thousand feet, are given; and then gneiss formations bring us down below the records of all stratifications; and the crystalizations of the solid granite, deeper than we can penetrate, tell us only of the fusing fires beneath; and the leaves of nature's book are all sealed up from mortal eyes beyond... every foot of which there must have been the passing away of geological ages, to have sufficed for their accumulations... [691]</p>

	<p>Long I was hugged close . . . long and long...</p> <p>...Through me many long dumb voices...</p> <p>Voices of cycles of preparation and accretion...</p>	<p>...As well might all nature rise into being from an utter void of all being at once, as to rise by progressive steps... [698-699]</p>
<p>cycles passed (rowing) inward and outward; piling of strata; the apperance of vegetables; resting on a granite foundation; this hand [of God] is the same hand</p>	<p>Immense have been the preparations for me...</p> <p>Cycles ferried my cradle, rowing and rowing like cheerful boatmen...</p> <p>...the long slow strata piled to rest it on</p> <p>... vast vegetables gave it sustenance...</p> <p>...I know the hand of God is the elderhand of my own...</p> <p>...My foothold is tenoned and mortised in granite, I laugh at what you call dissolution,</p> <p>And I know the amplitude of time...</p>	<p>Indefinite geological cycles passed round in the inward action and outward development of physical forces, and the onward series of cause and effect induced their combinations and cohesions, and the heat gave its molten masses, and the crystalline forces arranged the firm and deep granite beds, on which the entire geological superstructure... reposes through all its varied strata ; and yet periods of incalculable duration passed by, while the primitive gneiss rocks were attaining their consolidation and position, and while still later the mica-schist was being deposited... [694]</p> <p>In some shallow of the primitive ocean... wholly a new force is at work... A field of marine algae, the product of a vital force, which organizes, and energizes through all the organization of root, stock, branches and leaves, is in its first existence... Thus vegetative life begins, and runs on its course through all the following generations of that species of the seaweed... Whence, now, is this new force in such controlling action? ...It has been superinduced upon nature, and has thus become an addition to nature... it is quite manifest this hand, which interposed and put it into nature, is the same hand which intelligently holds and guides all nature... [695 - 696]</p>