

some of our most devoted Whitmanites. It is the duality of soul and body. Some readers lay all the stress on Whitman's references to the body. "Behold," they quote, "the body includes and is the meaning, the main concern and includes and is the soul." But the same poem declares that he "will not make a poem nor the least part of a poem, but has reference to the soul," and also the profound passage in which he says:

Of your real body and any man's or woman's real body,  
Item for item it will elude the hands of the corpse-cleaners  
and pass to fitting spheres,  
Carrying what has accrued to it from the moment of  
birth to the moment of death.

The pendulum swing of life and death is not the chief phenomenon of existence to Whitman. These but serve to indicate something greater which is not extinguished by birth and is not kindled by death.

This day before dawn I ascended a hill and looked at the  
crowded heaven,  
And I said to my spirit When we become the enfolders of  
those orbs, and the pleasure and knowledge of every  
thing in them, shall we be filled and satisfied then?  
And my spirit said No, we but level that lift to pass and  
continue beyond.

Greater than the "Body Electric," greater even than "the soul in the calm and cool of the daybreak," is the Democracy, the ideal humanity for which all the rest exists. Come, he says.

Come, I will make the continent indissoluble,  
I will make the most splendid race the sun ever shone upon,  
I will make divine magnetic lands,  
With the love of comrades  
With the life-long love of comrades.  
I will plant companionship thick as trees along all the  
rivers of America and along the shores of the great  
lakes, and all over the prairies,  
I will make inseparable cities with their arms about  
each other's necks,  
By the love of comrades,  
By the manly love of comrades.