

Throughout this thesis I have examined the elements in Hill's work which demonstrate his commitment to the 'structure of translation'. His engagement with history, language, landscape and culture is born of his recognition of the human soul's need for roots. Interpretation, as Steiner argues, makes civilization possible. Hill is a poet who values civilization and wants to remain close to it; he deplores ignorance of otherness because it makes true self-knowledge impossible. Hill's poetry makes the structure of translation explicit; we can see him reworking cultural artefacts as he constructs his own. In order to be appreciated the poetry must stimulate a similar work in the reader. We must delve into our past, and the past of other humans. But Hill remains aware of the difficulties of such work. If the labour of poetry is a form of spiritual exercise, it share the terror of the dark night that is the mark of true spiritual growth. Indeed, there is a greater threat in the path of the creative artist since s/he attempts the Promethean crime of stealing the knowledge of the Gods.