

Contents

Acknowledgements	vii
Abbreviations	ix
Introduction: The Heterodox Tradition in Western Philosophy	xiii
Chapter 1 Ideas About Human Nature in the Ancient Near East	1
1. Life, death and the soul in ancient Egypt	
2. Life, death and the soul in ancient Mesopotamia	
3. Life, death and the soul in the Zoroastrian religion	
Chapter 2 The Ancient and Medieval Horizon of the Shamanic Soul	65
Chapter 3 Secret Teachings about the Soul in the Post-Classical World	93
1. Secret teachings about the soul in the Hermetica	
2. Gnostic secret teachings about the soul	
3. Manichean ideas about the soul in light and darkness	
4. Oracles, ritual and theurgy in the soul's ascent	
Chapter 4 Byzantine Doctrines of Mind, Soul and Spirit	179
Chapter 5 Christian Mystical Ideas About the Soul's Ascent	207
1. The emergence of mystical ideas from Neo-Platonism and Esotericism	
2. The soul's ecstatic accounts of the other world	
3. New ideas about the soul's place in nature in the twelfth century	
4. The summit of Christian mysticism in the Late Middle Ages	
Chapter 6 Magical Ideas about the Soul from Isidore to Goethe	299
1. The medieval rediscovery of magic and its view of the soul	
2. The magical soul in the High Middle Ages	
3. The magical soul in the Late Middle Ages and Renaissance	
4. The magical soul in the Early Modern Period	
Chapter 7 Plurality of Dualisms and Duality of Life	403

Sectional Bibliographies	421
Index of Names	445
Index of Subjects	451