CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS ix

INTRODUCTION 1
METHODOLOGY 10

1. THE CONTEXT OF EVIL 17
THEODICY AND THEOLOGY:
THE CURRENT PROBLEM 17
"WHAT IS EVIL?" 21
EVIL AS AN EXISTENTIAL REALITY 23
THE TRADITIONAL RESPONSE 25
Plato 25
Gnosticism 27
HICK AND HIS "SOUL-MAKING" PROJECT 28

2. THE BIRTH AND DEATH OF LANGUAGE 37
EXPERIENCE AND EXPRESSION 37
PARABLE AND PARADOX 41

3. THEODICY: ANCIENT AND MODERN 73
THE DOCTOR AND THE PRIEST 73
THE SEER AND THE ANGEL 76
THE BLASPHEMER AND THE MEN OF VIOLENCE 83

4. TO BE OR NOT TO BE 99
HEROES AND MORTALS 99
EXILES AND KINGDOMS 121
THE ONE AND THE MANY 134

5. TOWARD AN HONEST THEODICY 161

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY 171

INDEXES 199