

Contents

List of Illustrations	ix
“The Road to Bauska”	xi
Acknowledgments	xiii
“On Rembrandt’s <i>Sacrifice of Isaac</i> (1635) in the Hermitage, St. Petersburg, Russia”	xix
Introduction: Rembrandt’s <i>The Sacrifice of Isaac</i> , Abraham’s Suspended Knife, and the Face of the Other	1
1 The Promise of Language in the Depths of Hell: Primo Levi’s “Canto of Ulysses” and <i>Inferno</i> 26	23
2 The Difference between Difference and Otherness: <i>Il milione</i> of Marco Polo and Calvino’s <i>Le città invisibili</i>	37
3 Traces of the Confucian/Mencian Other: Ethical Moments in Sima Qian’s <i>Records of the Historian</i>	57
4 War and the Hellenic Splendor of Knowing: Euripides, Hölderlin, Celan	75
5 The Saying, the Said, and the Betrayal of Mercy in Shakespeare’s <i>Merchant of Venice</i>	93
6 “Nom de Dieu, quelle race!”: The Saying, the Said, and the Betrayal of Charity in Mongo Beti’s <i>Le pauvre Christ de Bomba</i>	107

7	Transcendent Divinity and Human Responsibility in Mahfouz: “Zaabalawi” and <i>Children of our Alley</i>	121
8	“That You Might Have My Witness in Your Poem”: Valéry, the Symbolist Tradition, and Edgar Bowers’s Later Blank Verse	135
	Conclusion: The Saying and the Said/Representation and Interruption	155
	Notes	163
	Index	201