

CONTENTS

Preface / vii

BOOK I. THE SCIENCE WARS

1. Scientific Passions / 1
2. The Neutrino's Paradoxical Mode of Existence / 14
3. Culturing the *Pharmakon*? / 28
4. Constraints / 42
5. Introductions / 56
6. The Question of Unknowns / 71

BOOK II. THE INVENTION OF MECHANICS: POWER AND REASON

7. The Power of Physical Laws / 87
8. The Singularity of Falling Bodies / 98
9. The Lagrangian Event / 112
10. Abstract Measurement: Putting Things to Work / 129
11. Heat at Work / 139
12. The Stars, like Blessed Gods / 150
13. If We Could . . . / 162

BOOK III. THERMODYNAMICS: THE CRISIS OF PHYSICAL REALITY

14. The Threefold Power of the Queen of Heaven / 173
15. Anamnesis / 180
16. Energy Is Conserved! / 189
17. The Not So Profound Mystery of Entropy / 202
18. The Obligations of the Physicist / 221
19. Percolation / 236
20. In Place of an Epilogue / 254

Notes / 262

Index / 285