

# Contents

A Note to the Reader	vii
Acknowledgments	xi
René Girard: A Biographical Sketch	1

Part I  
OVERVIEW OF THE MIMETIC THEORY

1. Mimesis and Violence	9
2. The Surrogate Victim	20

Part II  
TRIANGULAR DESIRE

3. Triangular Desire	33
4. Desire and the Unity of Novelistic Conclusions	45
5. The Goodness of Mimetic Desire	62

Part III  
SACRIFICE

6. Sacrifice as Sacral Violence and Substitution	69
--	----

Part IV  
THE SCAPEGOAT AND MYTHS  
AS TEXTS OF PERSECUTION

7. The Scapegoat as Historical Referent	97
8. Stereotypes of Persecution	107
9. Python and His Two Wives: An Exemplary Scapegoat Myth	118

Part V  
THE BIBLE, THE GOSPELS, AND CHRIST

10. The Bible's Distinctiveness and the Gospel	145
11. <i>The Nonsacrificial Death of Christ</i>	177
12. The Divinity of Christ	189
13. Satan	194
14. The Question of Anti-Semitism in the Gospels	211

Part VI  
THE CHALLENGE OF FREUD AND NIETZSCHE

15. Freud and the Oedipus Complex	225
16. Nietzsche versus the Crucified	243
Epilogue: The Anthropology of the Cross: A Conversation with René Girard	262
Glossary	289
Bibliography	295
Index	305