

Contents

Preface ix

Introduction 1

- 1 Approaches to Guilt in Tragedy and Life 2
- 2 Performance 10
- 3 Words 14
- 4 *Phèdre* 17

1 Helplessness 22

- 1 Fatalism in Racine 25
- 2 Agamemnon 30
- 3 The Seventeenth Century 35
- 4 Divine Authority 40
- 5 Genetic Determinism 42
- 6 The Sense of the Inevitable 46

2 Flaws, Errors and Excuses: Theories of Hamartia 49

- 1 Aristotle 52
- 2 Flaw versus Error 56
- 3 Renaissance and Pre-Classical 61
- 4 Racine 64
- 5 Hamartia Re-Assessed 79

3 Ignorance 81

- 1 Theories 82
- 2 Oedipus at Thebes and at Colonus 86
- 3 Deianeira 89
- 4 Hercules, Agave and Others 96
- 5 Credulity – Macbeth and Others 99
- 6 *Phèdre* 101
- 7 Oedipus Revisited 102

4 Diminished Responsibility: Medea and the *Crime passionnel* 108

- 1 Euripides 111
- 2 Early-Modern and Modern Medeas 116
- 3 Corneille 119

5	Provocation: The Defence of Clytemnestra	130
1	Racine	135
2	Twentieth-century France: Giraudoux and Sartre	138
3	Marguerite Yourcenar	142
4	Jean Anouilh	146
5	Jean-Jacques Varoujean, Jean-Pierre Giraudoux	149
6	Saul, King of Israel, as Tragic Hero in French Drama	155
1	Jean de la Taille	159
2	Pierre du Ryer	163
3	Augustin Nadal	168
4	Voltaire	175
5	Alphonse de Lamartine	177
6	André Gide	180
7	Scapegoats: Passing the Buck to Snakes, Partners, Parents and Others	184
1	Parents	186
2	Teachers, Advisors, Counsellors	195
3	Spouses and Other Partners	201
4	Devils and Demons	208
	Bibliography	217
	Index of Names and Subjects	226
	Index of Plays	228