

CONTENTS

Preface	vii
Acknowledgments	ix
Abbreviations	xi

CHAPTER ONE

When the Golden Bough Breaks

<i>The Decline and Fall of the History-of-Religions Methods</i>	1
Beyond the Issue of Facticity, 2 The Logical and Empiricist Antecedents of Critical-Historical Inquiry, 3 The Subjection of the Divine to Natural Law, 8 The Rise of Historical-Critical Method, 12 The Locus of History: Mind or Fact?, 14 Myth and History, 16 The Focus on Historical Context, 20 The Search for Primal Patterns: Myth versus History, 21 The Escape from History, 24 History as the Transformation of Structures, 31 Anachronistic Reconstruction of the Socio-historical Context, 34	

CHAPTER TWO

Personal Identity and World-Construction 42

Max Weber's Contribution to Historical Method, 43 Phenomenology and the Recovery of the Life-World, 50 Personal Identity and the Social Perception of Reality, 57 Voluntary Participation and Hostile Powers, 60 The Promise of Order and the Experience of Anxiety, 64 The Jewish Quest for Political and Personal Identity, 68 Are the Gods in Control?, 73	
---	--

CHAPTER THREE

Asklepios the Healer 78

The Origins of Asklepios, 78 Asklepios as Medical and Cult Healer, 83 Asklepios as Benefactor and Personal Guide, 88 Asklepios as Savior: Aelius Aristides, 93	
--	--

CHAPTER FOUR

Isis 105

The Ancient Origins of the Isis Cult, 105 Isis as Agent of Order, 108 Isis as Instrument of Justice, 110 Isis and the Maintenance of Law, 116 Isis and Sarapis, 119 The Praises of Isis, 122 Isis as Benefac-	
---	--

trass, 125 Miracle in the Service of the Struggle for Imperial Power, 128 Isis and Mystical Illumination: Lucius Apuleius, 131 Isis in Myth and Symbol: Plutarch, 141

CHAPTER FIVE

Miracle and the Apocalyptic Tradition 146

God's Acts in Behalf of His People, 147 Miracle as Sign of the Defeat of Evil Powers, 151 Jesus and His Followers as Agents of Divine Triumph: The Q Source, 156 Through Jesus the New Age is Dawning: Mark, 159 Visions of Conflict and Encouragement to Persevere, 165 Miracle as Sign of the Spirit: Paul, 170

CHAPTER SIX

Miracle in History and Romance

Roman and Early Christian Sources 174

Portents of Divinely Shaped Destiny, 174 Portent in the Gospel of Matthew, 183 Telling the Story in Graeco-Roman Style: Luke and Acts, 190 The Divine Purpose at Work through History, 200 The Social Implications of Miracle in Matthew and Luke, 218

CHAPTER SEVEN

Miracle as Universal Symbol 221

The Transformation of Miracle in the Gospel of John, 221 Miracle as Sign and Symbol, 225 Symbolic Intention in John, 236 Symbol and Myth in Philo and Plutarch, 241 Symbolic Interpretation of Asklepios: Aelius Aristides, 247

CHAPTER EIGHT

Miracle as Propaganda in Pagan and Christian Romances 252

Apollonius as Divinely Attested Man of Wisdom: Philostratus, 256 Discrediting Miracle-Workers: Lucian, Celsus, and Eusebius, 265 Miracle as Exploited by Christian Propagandists, 274 The Life-World Implicit in the Romances, 286

CONCLUSION

Some Observations about Method in the History of Religion 290

Excursus on the "Divine Man" 297

Index 301