

Table of contents

1 Mythos

Literature as symbolic form – pathos, mythos, polis – instinct-structure and “psycho-mythology” – history of the Atreides – family and violence – the apparatus of the gods – legacy of the Atreides myth– myth, meaning, history – the improbable truth of history – Orestes in France – a man like any other – civilizational break – Blanchot

2 Orestes

Orestes in submission – Aeschylus: the *Oresteia* – Dikē against Dikē – nomological knowledge – Sartre: *The Flies* – Orestes, resistance and freedom – citizenship through crime – freedom and law – innocence inside evil – Blanchot: *The Most High* – justification theologically and politically – the undecidability between law and lawlessness – Orestes as Everyman – transgression as fulfilment of the law – insurrection and lawlessness – law and alterity – before the law – psychosis and rebellion – epidemic – words and things – the cunning of madness – the absolute knowledge of the Most High – the psychotic foundation of the myth of the Atreides

3 Nomos

State as super-nature – Rousseau: *The Social Contract* – freedom and commitment – theology, politics and civil religion – *aliénation totale* – particular will and general will – will and law – Hegel: *Elements of the Philosophy of Right* – will, reason, spirit – free will – self-will and general will – the moment of decision – particular freedom – Blanchot: *The Intellectuals* – the Dreyfus Affair – demonic power – the mythical-theological foundation of the law – the demand of justice – Benda: *Treason of the Intellectuals* – justice and injustice – Derrida: *Force of Law* – justice and force – mystical foundation of the law – decision and madness – the privilege of the other

4 Anomy

Human brothers – Littell: *The Kindly Ones* – testimony – physical, affective and symbolic order – substitute formations – Schreber: *Memoirs of my Nervous Illness* – psychic apparatus, apparatus of influence, apparatus of the state – family romance and politics – idolic father-image – hate-love of the mother – historical report and moral narrative – head-wound, conversion, disaster – father, Führer, super-father – the chosen people – politics and the extermination of the Jews – one’s own question as figure – conflict of ambivalence and *bellum intestinum* – National Socialism as a-symbolic form – Oedipus and Orestes – repulsion, fascination, anxiety – administration as sublimation – rationali-

zation of the camps, humanization of extermination – “to have stayed decent”: Auschwitz as legal space – the words of the Führer, legal force and the categorical imperative – Kant: *Groundwork to the Metaphysics of Morals* – reason and humanity as instance of the law – *petitio principii* of freedom, humanity and law – lawfulness of the extermination of the enemy – people and race as instance of the law – Arendt: *Eichmann in Jerusalem* – “fearsome banality” and *hostis generis humani* – ethos of apathy – collapse of father-image and fatherland – wish, reality, phantasma – psychaesthesia, delusions of grandeur, dissolution of limits – the nameless.

5 Psychosis

The end of the war as collapse – Freud and Schreber – delusion and transformation – black pedagogy – Lacan and Schreber – the Oedipus complex as the foundation of the symbolic order – family romance and sexual difference – the navel of the dream and of the symbolic order – Orestes and Oedipus – Aeschylus: *Oresteia* – the order of the mother and the law of the father – the navel of the earth – true and delusive order.