# TABLE OF CONTENTS

**LIST OF FIGURES** ........................................... IX  
**LIST OF TABLES** ........................................... XIII  
**PREFACE** .................................................. XVII  

I. **THE POLITICS OF THE PERSIAN PARADISE (THE PARIS LECTURES)** 1  
   1. À la recherche du paradis perdu .......................... 3  
   2. The King’s Truth ........................................... 20  
   3. Space, Motion, and Climate in the Achaemenian Imaginary 41  
   4. Il faut cultiver notre jardin: On Achaemenian Horticulture and Imperialism 59  
   Appendix to Chapter Four: Zoroastrian Mythology of Plants: Synoptic Table 80  
   5. Implications of Grammatical Number in the Mythology of Vegetation 89  

II. **HUMAN UNITY AND THE DIVERSITY OF PEOPLES IN ACHAEMENIAN MYTH, ART, AND IDEOLOGY (THE SIENA LECTURES)** 105  
   6. Bisitun and Persepolis ...................................... 107  
   7. Naqš-i Rustam ............................................... 127  
   8. The Unity and Diversity of Peoples in Later Iranian History 145  
   9. Sacred Kingship? ............................................ 167  

III. **AESTHETICS AND THE DEMONIC (LECTURES, 2008-9)** 187  
   10. Creation and Other Epiphanies in Achaemenian Religion 189  
   11. The Geography of Creation .................................. 202  
   12. Representing the Lie in Achaemenian Persia ............... 213  
   13. Representing the Lie in Mazdaean Iran .................... 225  
   14. On Zoroastrian and Achaemenian Demonology ............. 237  
   15. Happiness Regained ....................................... 258  

IV. **GREEKS AND PERSIANS** .................................... 269  
   16. Herodotus as Anthropologist .............................. 271  
   17. On the Sisterhood of Europe and Asia .................... 289
| 18. Myth and Diplomacy: Persian Overtures to the Argives | 304 |
| 19. Aeschylus’s *Persians* and the Categorical Opposition of East and West | 324 |
| 20. On Persian Pedagogy and Greek Machismo | 335 |

**V. V ARIA** ................................................................. 355

| 21. The Wise Lord’s Will and the Making of Wonders | 357 |
| 22. Cosmogonic Myth and Dynastic Crisis | 375 |
| 23. Rebellion and Treatment of Rebels | 393 |
| 24. Happiness, Law, and Fear | 406 |
| 25. Big and Little in Old Persian | 425 |
| 26. Ancestors, Corpses, Kings, and the Land | 437 |
| 27. The Bifurcated Cosmos of Mazdaean Religion (with Clarisse Herrenschmidt) | 446 |
| 28. Cosmology and Hydraulics | 462 |

| 29. Reflections after the Fact | 473 |

**BIBLIOGRAPHY** .......................................................... 479

**INDEX** ........................................................................ 523