

## *Contents*

<i>List of Figures</i>	<i>page</i> viii
<i>Prologue</i>	ix
<i>Subject and Scope of the Work</i>	ix
<i>Method of Inquiry and Bifocal Structure</i>	xii
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	xviii
<i>Note on Translations and Primary Source Editions</i>	xix

### PART I THE LITERARY VISION

#### Chapter 1

Writing as Theophany: The Medium as Metaphor for Immediacy	3
Language, or the Unlimited Presence of the Medium	12
Letter Mysticism (Kabbalah): The Magic in the Means	20
Mediation as Signification and as Incarnation	29
Corollary on Incarnation and Semiology in Radical Orthodoxy	36
The Significance of Dante's Vision of Scripture in a History-of-Media Perspective	40
Popular Culture versus Esoteric Modes of Reception	43
General Introduction to the Heaven of Jupiter and Its Contemporary Interpretation	45

#### Chapter 2

The Presence of Speech in Writing: Speaking as Sparking	55
Speech versus Writing, or the Dialectic of Art and Unmediated Presence	55
Writing as Speech, Chaos as Occulted Order	58
Bird Formations and Contingency	64
Speaking as Sparking, or a Randomness within the Order of Language	68
From Speech to Letter to Image: Metamorphoses of the Spark	73
Dispersion of Sparks and the Wholeness of Sense	77
Theological Revelation via Punning: Linguistic Contingency at Play	81

Chapter 3	
The Parts of Speech: Mediation and Contingency	87
Contingency as Key to Revelation	87
The Central Vision and Its Differential Grammar	90
Signifying the Ineffable Other and Its Differential Logic	96
Contingency as Manifestation of the Non-manifest and as Revelation of Unrepresentable Transcendence	99
The Redemption of Contingency through the Artistic Medium	103
Chapter 4	
From Speculative Grammar to Visual Spectacle and Beyond	108
The Grammatical Vision of Language Culminating in Speculative Grammar	108
Intuitive Truth Expressed Allegorically as Imaginative Vision of Infinite Mediation	116
Immediate Vision of the Invisible in the Visible	121
Writing as the Concrete Presence of an Infinite Absence	124
Grammatical Shattering of Wholeness and Presence Restored through the Image	128
Transcendent Sense: From Linguistic Epistemology to Love of Justice	133
Chapter 5	
Sense Made Sensuous and Synaesthesia in the Sight and Sound of Writing	138
The Pure Sign Incarnate (Canto XIX)	146
Canto XX. Visionary Writing: The Sight and Sound of the Word	151
Self-Reflection and the Limits of Understanding	159
Bird Images of Lyric Self-Reflexivity	164
Metaphor and the Poetic Making of the Linguistic Substance of Paradise	170
Geometrical Imagery and Perspective Opening to Infinity in the Heaven of Jupiter	174
Chapter 6	
Infinite Script: Endless Mediation as Metaphor for Divinity	180
Revelation of the Divine in and through Infinite Linguistic Mediation	180
From Representation of Mediation to the Unrepresentable and Im-mediate	183
PART II PHILOSOPHICAL REFLECTIONS	
Excursus I	
Writing and Visionary Immediacy: Mechanics and Mysticism of the Letter	191
Poetics of Revelation in Transition from Oral Culture to Written	195
Conspectus of the Excursuses and Their Contents	198

*Contents*

vii

Excursus II	
Saussure and the Structuralist Idea of Language as a System of Differences	199
Excursus III	
Temporalization and Transcendence of Time through Language	206
Ephemerality as the Cipher of Eternity	206
The Christological – Mortal and Material – Sense of History and Language	209
The Transcendence of Time through Language: Augustine and His Legacy	213
Negative Dialectic of Time and Eternity: From the <i>Commedia</i> to Modern Literature	222
Excursus IV	
Transcendental Reflection: Time Synthesis and the Role of the “I”	227
Transcendental Reflection and the Horizon of Modern Thought	230
Transcendence of the “io” as Reflection of the Transcendent	231
Recentring the Transcendence of the Subject in Modern Philosophy via Dante	239
Excursus V	
Unmanifest Wholeness of Sense: Language as Image of the Imageless	244
From Time to Eternity: The Whole of Sense	244
Ekphrasis, or Writing in Images: Between Saying and Showing	247
Language as Logos – Binding Together as Manifestation of Being	251
<i>Legare Parole</i> or Logos as λέγειν – Heidegger and Heraclitus	253
Dante’s Theory of Poetry as Tying and Binding Together	258
Excursus VI	
Transcendentality of Language and the Language of the Other	262
The Infinity of Language in Its Historicity	265
Levinas: Language as “Relation” and as “Religion”	268
The Language of the Other	271
Ethics as Revelation in Language	273
Levinas and the Face of the Other as Revelation and Theophany – Im/mediacy	278
Beyond: Dante, Levinas, and the Imperative of Justice	283
<i>Appendix Paradiso XVIII, 70–136: Italian text and English translation</i>	286
<i>Index</i>	289