

CONTENTS

THE GARDEN OF EDEN

... at some point something must have come from nothing ... 3

THE TOP HAT

... the only thing we require to be good philosophers is the faculty of wonder ... 10

THE MYTHS

... a precarious balance between the forces of good and evil ... 19

THE NATURAL PHILOSOPHERS

... nothing can come from nothing ... 25

DEMOCRITUS

... the most ingenious toy in the world ... 36

FATE

... the 'fortune-teller' is trying to foresee something that is really quite unforeseeable ... 41

SOCRATES

... wisest is she who knows what she does not know ... 49

viii : CONTENTS

ATHENS	
... several tall buildings had risen from the ruins ...	62
PLATO	
... a longing to return to the realm of the soul ...	67
THE MAJOR'S CABIN	
... the girl in the mirror winked with both eyes ...	80
ARISTOTLE	
... a meticulous organizer who wanted to clarify our concepts ...	88
HELLENISM	
... a spark from the fire ...	102
THE POSTCARDS	
... I'm imposing a severe censorship on myself ...	118
TWO CULTURES	
... the only way to avoid floating in a vacuum ...	125
THE MIDDLE AGES	
... going only part of the way is not the same as going the wrong way ...	138
THE RENAISSANCE	
... O divine lineage in mortal guise ...	157
THE BAROQUE	
... such stuff as dreams are made on ...	180
DESCARTES	
... he wanted to clear all the rubble off the site ...	194
SPINOZA	
... God is not a puppeteer ...	205

LOCKE	
... as bare and empty as a blackboard before the teacher arrives ...	213
HUME	
... commit it then to the flames ...	222
BERKELEY	
... like a giddy planet round a burning sun ...	234
BJERKELY	
... an old magic mirror Great-grandmother had bought from a Gypsy woman ...	238
THE ENLIGHTENMENT	
... from the way needles are made to the way cannons are founded ...	251
KANT	
... the starry heavens above me and the moral law within me ...	267
ROMANTICISM	
... the path of mystery leads inwards ...	284
HEGEL	
... the reasonable is that which is viable ...	299
KIERKEGAARD	
... Europe is on the road to bankruptcy ...	309
MARX	
... a spectre is haunting Europe ...	320
DARWIN	
... a ship sailing through life with a cargo of genes ...	335

X : CONTENTS

FREUD ... the odious egoistic impulse that had emerged in her ...	356
OUR OWN TIME ... man is condemned to be free ...	371
THE GARDEN PARTY ... a white crow ...	391
COUNTERPOINT ... two or more melodies sounding together ...	403
THE BIG BANG ... we too are stardust ...	419
INDEX	428