## Table of Contents

## AL

Preface	xi
Introduction The Empire of Force and the World of Words	1
Chapter One Speech in the Empire	13
Silence; valuable speech; Dante's Divine Comedy; our world of public speech; advertising and propaganda; the "marketplace of ideas"; Robert Frost's "The Road Not Taken"; Frankfurter and	
Jackson in the flag salute case; Abraham Lincoln's letter to General Hooker.	
Chapter Two	
Living Speech and the Mind Behind It  "Nature in her full glory"; the writing of children; Polonius' speech to Laertes; Francesca's story of her life in Dante's Commedia; John Ashcroft on military tribunals; the teaching of writing in college; Abraham's argument with the Deity about the fate of Sodom; Blackmun's opinion in Virginia Pharmacy Board; Jackson's opinion in Thomas v. Collins.	50
Chapter Three	0.1
The Desire for Meaning  The role of the reader in making meaning; the note on the icebox; the statute; Frost's "Road Not Taken" again; three forms of the desire for meaning;  Shakespeare's Sonnet 18; the judicial opinion; desires not for meaning but for use; Francesca once more;  Master Adam and Sinon.	91

## x TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chapter Four	
Writing That Calls the Reader into Life—or Death	124
Plato's Phaedrus, on not saying the same thing always;	
the conversation with the reader in William Carlos	
Williams's, "This Is Just To Say"; the possibilities for	
meaning presented by the facts of Ashcroft v. Free	
Speech Coalition; the meaning actually achieved in	
the opinion in that case; Dante's Guido da	
Montefeltro as a legal thinker; the opinion of	
Brandeis in Whitney v. California.	
Chapter Five	
Human Dignity and the Claim of Meaning	168
Athenian tragedy and the judicial opinion compared;	
Aeschylus, The Oresteia and The Persians; Sophocles,	
Oedipus at Colonus and the Ajax; Justice Harlan in	
Cohen v. California; the relation between the claim of	
justice and the claim of meaning, especially in Dante's	
treatment of Virgil.	
Chapter Six	
Silence, Belief, and the Right to Speak	204
Living speech; trivializing and degrading speech; silence	
and meaning among the Quakers; the law as an	
institution built upon speech that claims meaning for	
experience; belief beyond language, in life and law;	
Dante; justice and love; Simone Weil.	
Index	227
1/14/5/	44/