

Table of Contents



<i>Preface</i>	xi
Introduction	
The Empire of Force and the World of Words	1
Chapter One	
Speech in the Empire	13
<i>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.</i>	
Chapter Two	
Living Speech and the Mind Behind It	50
<i>"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.</i>	
Chapter Three	
The Desire for Meaning	91
<i>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.</i>	

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