## Contents

| Preface   | 6   |
|---|-----|
| When the Gods were Human: The Ancient Near Eastern Tale   |     |
| of the Deluge   | 8   |
| The Tooth Worm  | 34  |
| Letter of Request to a God  | 35  |
| Lullaby   | 36  |
| The Master and his Servant  | 37  |
| The Revenge of the Poor Man of Nippur   | 40  |
| The Tale of Etana   | 45  |
| Invitation to the Dead for a Feast: Ishtar's Descent to the World   |     |
| of the Dead and Dumuzi's Return to the World of the Living  | 52  |
| The Ishtar Hymn of Ammiditana   | 61  |
| Enheduana Sings Against the Imminent Destruction. A Sumerian Song for a Dangerous Ritual by the Earliest Female Author of |     |
| World Literature  | 65  |
| King Utuhengal Expels the Gutians   | 76  |
| Gilgamesh and Akka  | 79  |
| Birth and Rise of King Sargon   | 82  |
| A Dialogue About the Indifference of the Gods: the Babylonian   |     |
| Theodicy  | 83  |
| From the Life of a Student  | 96  |
| Bibliography  | 100 |
| Glossary  | 112 |

