## CONTENTS

>>>>

Preface	1
Preamble. A Mathematician's Murder	9
Introduction	13
Reason's Twin	13
Enlightenment into Myth	14
The Present Moment	20
Irrationality: A Road Map	27
CHAPTER ONE. The Self-Devouring Octopus; or, Logic	35
The Operation of Falsity	35
Explosions	40
Kaspar Hauser and the Limits of Rational Choice	43
Carrying On about the Ineffable	48
CHAPTER TWO. "No-Brainers"; or, Reason in Nature	59
An Ordered Whole	59
Brute Beasts	65
An Imperfect Superpower	72
Small Pain Points	77
CHAPTER THREE. The Sleep of Reason; or, Dreams	81
Upon Awakening	81
Breaking the Law	88
Spirits, Vapors, Winds	92
Hearing Voices	96
Bitter Little Embryos	102
Postscriptum Fabulosum	106

## x • Contents

CHAPTER FOUR. Dreams into Things; or, Art	107
Many Worlds	107
Bleeding Out	109
Genies, Genius, and Ingenium	116
What Is Art?	123
The Two Magisteria	130
CHAPTER FIVE. "I believe because it is absurd";	
or, Pseudoscience	139
The Stars Down to Earth	139
Let a Hundred Flowers Bloom	146
Alternative Facts, and Alternatives to Facts	153
The Paranoid Style in the Twenty-First Century	166
CHAPTER SIX. Enlightenment; or, Myth	174
Better the Light	174
The World-Soul on Horseback	180
Poetic History	185
Enlightenment into Myth, Again	193
Why Democracy?	203
CHAPTER SEVEN. The Human Beast; or, the Internet	208
An Escargotic Commotion	208
The Modern Shiva	212
Nothing Human Is Alien	220
More Gender Trouble	224
An Age of Extremes	234
CHAPTER EIGHT. Explosions; or, Jokes and Lies	237
Into Nothing	237

	Contents	• xi	
Charlie Hebdo and After		238	
Pseudologia Generalis		245	
Croaking		255	
CHAPTER NINE. The Impossible Syllogism; or, Death		260	
"In the long run we are all dead"		260	
Radical Choices		264	
Youth and Risk		267	
The Impossible Syllogism		273	
Tie Me Up		281	
Cargo Cults		284	
In Loving Repetition		292	
Conclusion		295	
Acknowledgments		299	
Notes		301	
Bibliography		321	
Index		333	

