

Preface

Along with seven unpublished studies, this book contains one essay previously published in a collection inaccessible to many interested readers. A shorter version of the essay “Adoil Outside the Cosmos: God Before and After Creation in the Enochic Tradition” appeared in *Histories of the Hidden God: Concealment and Revelation in Western Gnostic, Esoteric and Mystical Traditions* (eds. A. DeConick and G. Adamson; Durham, NC: Acumen, 2013) 30–57. I am thankful to Acumen Publishing for permission to reuse the material. The format and style of the essay have been changed to comply with the standards of this collection.

I would like to express my appreciation to Rick Barry, Moshe Idel, Oleg Makariev, Ivan Miroshnikov, Fr. Joseph Mueller, S.J., Paul Pasquesi, Nikolai Seleznyov, and Brian Sigmon, who read various parts of the manuscript and offered numerous helpful suggestions. I am especially grateful to my research assistants Jeff Walkey and Jim Wykes, who worked very hard through different versions of the manuscript to help improve the text in both style and substance.

I am grateful to the National Gallery of Art, Washington for permission to use a digital reproduction of William Blake's painting “The Great Red Dragon and the Woman Clothed with the Sun” as the cover image.

Sincere thanks are also due to Nancy Ellegate, Diane Ganeles, and the editorial team of the SUNY Press for their help, patience, and professionalism during preparation of this book for publication.

Andrei Orlov
Milwaukee

The Great Feast of Theophany, 2014