CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION I

CHAPTER ONE

"The Devil Spoke from Scripture": Boundary Maintenance and Communal Integrity in Late Antiquity 21

CHAPTER TWO

"The Living Voice of Kindred Blood": Narrative, Identity, and the Primordial Past 46

CHAPTER THREE

"What Has the Pious in Common with the Impious?" Ambrose, Libanius, and the Problem of Late Antique Religious Violence 81

CHAPTER FOUR

"Are You Christians?" Violence, Ascetics, and Knowing One's Own 108

CHAPTER FIVE

"Horsemen by Day and Monks by Night": Narrative and Community in Islamic Late Antiquity 144

CHAPTER SIX

"The Sword Scrapes Away Transgressions": Ascetic Praxis and Communal Boundaries in Late Antique Islam 168

CHAPTER SEVEN

"Do You Not Fear God?" The Khawārij in Early Islamic Society 196

viii CONTENTS

CHAPTER EIGHT
"This Is a Very Filthy Question, and No One Should Discuss It":
The Messy World of Ibn Ḥanbal 231

CONCLUSION 272

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS 283
NOTES 285
SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY 367
INDEX 383
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS 397