

Preface

In the first volume of my study I considered the genesis and development of the *Ring* cycle together with Wagner's appropriation of sources (Germanic, Norse, and Greek), artists, philosophers, and theologians. This second volume now looks at the various theological and ethical themes of the *Ring* such as nature, power and love, law and sexual ethics, death and immortality, freedom and necessity, sin, incarnation, and redemption, together with questions such as authority, gender, and human psychology. All this will be preceded by a chapter on Wagner's sketches *Jesus of Nazareth*, which, I claim, unlocks many theological secrets of the *Ring*, and a chapter on the question of "God" and the "Gods."

This volume is complete in itself but most will be gained by using it in conjunction with volume 1.