

Acknowledgements

As a scriptor, a composer of texts, I am first of all a reader and a listener. I wander around in other people's minds. I wander around in other people's books and essays, in other people's music. I bother friends and colleagues with my questions, with my doubts, with the problems I encounter while contemplating the project I am working on. Writing is selfish; at times unbearably, often unapproachably. The title of a book by the Spanish writer Jorge Semprun speaks volumes: *Writing or Living*. Writing takes place on a threshold. Parasitizing on other people's texts and unpublished thoughts, one carves out a space that is neither inside nor completely outside.

The sources of inspiration encountered during the realization of a book are endless. Several can be found in the bibliography as well as the index. Other sources seep into the material on a less traceable level; although their presence can be felt, their influence is not so concrete. And there are others who have contributed in yet another way; their mediation is not (only) discursive, but social and personal (as well). It is individuals and groups from this last category, whose help has been absolutely crucial for this project, who I would like to mention here.

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Traditionally, the last place is reserved for the one who has suffered the most: the partner. Ida, I hope it was worth the many hours we could have spent in another way.

Finally, I dedicate this book to my parents whose spiritual path I was not able to follow but whose education made it possible for me to rethink this subject at all.