

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Protagorean theory would argue that books, like ideas, need opposition to flourish. Of course, it doesn't hurt to receive a little encouragement along the way, and this book has been the recipient of much of the latter. In particular, *Many Sides* has been supported over several years by the research program of Iowa State University, first in the form of a research leave and then in steady research support from the Department of English. Among my friends and colleagues at Iowa State, Rich and Julie Freed have been steadfast in their interest in me and my work, David Russell has prodded me gently, and Scott Consigny has helped me to think about Protagoras through his own fine work on Gorgias. I have also been lucky in my students, many of whom have understood antilogic by instinct and shown me what it can do when practiced well.

In many ways, this book is an effort to develop a "thick pedagogy," a concept that relies on gifted teachers able to realize the special *kairos* of the classroom. I am privileged to have seen three such teachers at work—John Ehrstine, Uli Knoepflmacher, and Michael Leff. Their professional decorum has been an inspiration to this book and my career.

From the people at Kluwer, I have received not only professional advice but also the kind of goodwill that has made publication a pleasure. In particular, Susan Jones, Jacqueline Bergsma, and Frans van Eemeren have been supportive at every step. Additional thanks to my anonymous reader, whose good judgment improved more than my title.

In preparing my manuscript, I have had the benefit of some very professional friends. Donna Kain gave this book more than its graceful design; her good sense, hard work, and patience are on every page. David

Roberts was a scrupulous copy editor who, between naps, was always ready to clip my wings. Irene Faas, my proofreader, used red pencils and rhetorical expertise in the constant battle against “hateful error.” And James McGlew has done all he could to nudge me towards correctness in my ancient language.

There is also my friend Jane Smiley, who works very fast and who encouraged me when I was very slow. There are my sons, Aaron and Noah, the A and N of the text, who have never had any difficulty taking the other side. And, most of all, there is my wife, Professor Susan Carlson, my closest dialogical partner, who has discussed every new development in this book’s history and then read every new draft that followed. I believe that almost everything can and should be argued. But there is simply no argument about the importance of her role in the development of *Many Sides* or about the sincerity of its dedication.

<http://www.springer.com/978-1-4020-0402-5>

Many Sides: A Protagorean Approach to the Theory,
Practice and Pedagogy of Argument

Mendelson, M.

2002, XXVIII, 300 p., Hardcover

ISBN: 978-1-4020-0402-5