



IN THE
SHADOW
OF
MOUNT
SINAI

PETER SLOTERDIJK

In the Shadow of Mount Sinai

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*A Footnote on the Origins and Changing Forms
of Total Membership*

Peter Sloterdijk

Translated by Wieland Hoban

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I

Narrowing the Battle Zone

Anyone planning to say something about a controversial matter such as the violent implications of what we call 'monotheism', both those proven and those merely asserted, would be well advised to follow a few rules of caution. Theology is demonic terrain. What Thomas Mann noted about music in his big Washington speech of 1945 about 'Germany and the Germans' applies no less to speaking about divine matters and about this-worldly and other-worldly things. The observation made in the same speech that music is 'the most remote from reality of all the arts and, at the same time, the most passionate' can be transferred without any noteworthy changes to the nature of many theological lessons. They