

ALAIN CABANTOUS

TRANSLATED BY ERIC RAUTH

# BLASPHEMY

*Impious speech in the West from the seventeenth to the nineteenth century*



“Blasphemy was and is about taking the exact measure of the relation between divine and human, about grasping the limit between two worlds that coexisted, yet grew increasingly separate, in the spiritual worldview of modern Europe. Its utterance thus became an intolerably meddlesome interference, or admixture, of the vilest and most profanatory this-worldliness inside the space of the sacred; it became something that cast the shadow of doubt over those traditional reference points that had so starkly traced the bounds of Christian holiness never to be overstepped. But why did these attempts to surmount the bounds of the sacred come about? And who perpetrated them?”

—From the Introduction

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