

# Contents

Instead of a foreword, or on the gnostic alternative to metaphysical optimism  
▶ 9

## Chapter I

Literature as gnosis ▶ 21

1. Schulzian literature, or between childish mythologization and metaphysical quest ▶ 21
2. *Mythicization of Reality*, or on the metaphysical potencies of literature  
▶ 29
3. The gnostic meanders of *Spring* ▶ 33
  - 3.1. *Spring*, or literature between mysticism and gnosis ▶ 33
  - 3.2. Gnosis of the “other side of things” ▶ 42
  - 3.3. *Spring* gnosis of the essence of the world and the Absolute ▶ 50

## Chapter II

Schulzian gnosis of the known and “unknown” manifestations of material life  
▶ 53

1. Spontaneous manifestations of the activity of formless matter ▶ 53
2. The origins of substantial beings ▶ 59
3. The textile life ▶ 61
4. Plant life ▶ 64
5. Quasi-vegetal manifestations of life ▶ 69

## Chapter III

Matter as the source and instrument of suffering ▶ 85

1. Suffering as an immanent feature of the material world ▶ 85
2. Suffering as an effect of “demiurgic manipulation” ▶ 95
  - 2.1. Matter, or Jakub as the grand manipulator ▶ 95
  - 2.2. Time, or Jakub subjected to manipulation ▶ 115

## Chapter IV

Matter as a source and instrument of pleasure ► 123

1. Being a body beside a body, or on the potential character of sensuous fulfilment and gratification ► 123
2. Being a body and communing with the body, or on the phenomenon of actualization of sensuous desires ► 138

Bibliography ► 151