

Contents

Preface XI

Abbreviations XIV

- 1 **Beyond the Limits of Wisdom** 1
 - 1 Rethinking Categories 2
 - 2 The Sectarian Divide 18

- 2 **Redefining the Sage** 33
 - 1 *mēbîn* 33
 - 2 *maškîl* 40
 - 3 *ḥākām* 49
 - 4 Conclusion 56

- 3 **Continuous Study** 58
 - 1 By Day and by Night 58
 - 2 Keeping Watch 68
 - 3 Celestial Beings 76
 - 4 Conclusion 82

- 4 **The Dynamics of Revelation** 83
 - 1 The Body and Evil Forces 83
 - 2 The Fleshly Spirit 90
 - 3 Heavenly Light 97
 - 4 Conclusion 104

- 5 ***Rāz Nihyeh*** 106
 - 1 Turning to the Past 106
 - 2 The Divisions of the Times 117
 - 3 Divine Thinking 131
 - 4 Conclusion 138

- Bibliography** 141
- Index of Modern Authors** 170
- Index of Ancient Sources** 173
- Subject Index** 183