

Wisdoms of Enchantment

Contemporary Forms of the Sacred

The following four articles were extracted from a collection of works on *God, Meaning, and Democracy*, edited by Xavier Ruiz-Portella. Their publication extends the special attention that *Diogenes* has paid for several years to redefinitions of the sacred in contemporary societies (see *Diogenes*, No. 146, "Aspects of the Sacred and the Profane," 1989; No. 152, with three contributions on "Religion and Forces in South Asia," 1990; No. 156, with three articles on "Creeds and Knowledge," 1991; No. 158, "Shamans and Shamanism on the Threshold of the New Millennium," 1992). Because of their deliberately subjective approach and a style that borrows from autobiography and the imaginary, these articles add a new tone to current debates on the subject. They clarify the form of philosophical knowledge that unfolds in the proximity between the investigator and his object and finds support in a respectful and familiar intimacy that is informed by a knowledge of the other.

The Editors.