The Beginning of Terror

Kleinbard, David

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Preface

I am deeply grateful to Maureen Waters, my wife, and Fred Kaplan for all their useful criticisms and suggestions for the revision of *The Beginning of Terror*. I take this opportunity to thank the members of the History of Psychiatry Seminar at Cornell Medical Center, who were very helpful in their responses to my paper on the relationship between Rilke and Rodin, and especially Barbara Leavy, whose support and encouragement will stay with me as a model of generous friendship. I have benefited as an interpreter of literature from the discussions of the Columbia University Literature and Psychology Seminar. The warm and thoughtful responses of Jason Renker, my editor at New York University Press, Jeffrey Berman, the editor of the Literature and Psychoanalysis Series, and New York University Press's final anonymous reader have played a creative role in revisions of my book.

For thirty-five years I have been studying Rilke’s work and translating it for my own pleasure, along with the works of other German writers. During this time I have been interested in translations of Rilke by others and am, no doubt, indebted to them in my own interpretations and translations of his poems.