# CONTENTS

### PREFACE 9

## THE MANSI: A HISTORICAL INTRODUCTION 13

# THE MYTHOLOGICAL WORLD VIEW OF THE MANSI 23 Actual Figures of the Pantheon 23 Mother-Goddesses 27 The Conception of Human Soul. Reincarnation 28 Mansi Religious Ritual Practice. Putting the Space in Cosmic Order

ENCYCLOPAEDIA OF MANSI MYTHOLOGY Ā-W 41

Mansi Mythology and the Iranian Tradition 33

### THE POEMS 157

Mythological Texts 159
Sacral Tale about the Creation of the Earth 159
Song of the World Surveyor Man, the Son of Sky Having Been Lowered from Above 163
Invocation to the World Surveyor Man from Khat-paul Village 167
Song of the Elk Star 169

ABBREVIATIONS 177

REFERENCES 178

NAME INDEX 187

GENERAL INDEX 189