

# Contents

<i>List of illustrations</i>	page x
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	xii
<i>Abbreviations</i>	xiv
<i>Note on translations</i>	xvi
<i>Preface</i>	xvii
1 Introduction: the sublime before and after Longinus	1
Making sense of sublimity	5
Current biases	7
The sublime without Longinus	18
The bubble of <i>hupsos</i> ? Towards a new history of the sublime in antiquity	25
Words, words, words	34
Misinheritances: Boileau, Romantics, and the lost traditions of the sublime	36
Logical and thematic markers of the sublime	51
Varieties of sublimity	54
2 The art and rhetoric of the Longinian sublime	57
Art and nature	60
The rhetorical construction of the sublime	83
“Sublimity is the echo of a noble mind”	93
The ruses of sublime art as nature	102
The rhetorical question and the question of rhetoric	105
<i>Fiat lux</i>	107
Presuming the sublime	116
Sublimity as a theory of reading	117
The art of the emotions	124
<i>Hupsēlon poiein</i> : making things sublime	130
<i>Sunthesis</i>	134
The art of sublime criticism	136
The rhythm of the sublime	137
The aesthetics of the <i>kairos</i> : the instant, the moment, and the detail	141
Sequencing: the interstitial sublime	147
<i>Hupek</i>	148



Visualization	155
Cosmic intervals	160
Intervals and the logic of the gap	171
The logic of excess	173
Longinus' cosmic map	175
 3 The sublime before Longinus in rhetoric and criticism: Caecilius to Demetrius	 178
<i>Hypsos</i> : names, synonyms, and equivalents	180
Polemics, predecessors, and possible targets	183
Caecilius of Caleacte	184
"The grand style": <i>megalopsuchia</i>	195
Longinus as his own predecessor	201
Other predecessors	203
Dionysius of Halicarnassus	213
Poetic expression and the system of styles	214
The system of compositional types	230
Dionysius as a precursor to Longinus	235
The euphonist tradition	239
Demetrius, <i>On Style</i>	246
Poetic expression and the system of styles	248
Styles as adverbs	253
The force of grandeur (and vice versa)	260
On the uses of excess (hyperbole)	270
Demetrius' achievements	277
 4 The sublime before Longinus in rhetoric and literature: Theophrastus to Homer	 283
Theophrastus	283
Aristotle	289
The <i>Rhetoric</i>	289
The <i>Poetics</i>	297
Fourth-century orators and rhetoricians	303
Demosthenes	304
Aeschines	306
Alcidamas	308
<i>P. Oxy.</i> 410	309
Gorgias	314
Aristophanes, Cratinus, and earlier theories of tragedy	319
Tragedy	334
The Sublime form of tragedy	335
Tragic physics: sublime <i>aithēr</i>	344
Praising to the skies: Pindaric heights	350
The great ocean: Homer	360



5	The material sublime	382
	The material and immaterial sublimes	390
	The sublime matter of language in Longinus	397
	Nature as a sublime object	411
	The Presocratics	415
	Empedocles	416
	Anaxagoras	421
	Early ridicule of the material sublime	431
	The Lucretian sublime	445
	<i>Maiestas rerum</i>	446
	Lucretius and Longinus	450
	Antecedents	454
	Demetrius of Laconia(?): <i>P. Herc.</i> 831 and the earlier Epicurean tradition	457
	A surprising afterlife: Vergil and Kant	463
	<i>On the Cosmos</i>	473
	Bodies of light and celestial void: Manilius' <i>Astronomica</i>	483
	Manilius' Lucretian sublime	488
	<i>Rerum discordia</i>	496
	Bodies and void in the heavens	501
	God is great	505
	The <i>Aetna</i> poet	508
	Cleomedes, <i>On the Heavens</i>	517
	Nature made sublime: a Longinian coda	526
6	The immaterial sublime	537
	Sublimity and divinity	541
	Homer	542
	Presocratics	547
	Aeschylus	554
	Aristotle	554
	Beauty made sublime: Plato	557
	<i>Hupsos</i> in Plato	559
	<i>Hupsos</i> and beauty	563
	The cave of the <i>Republic</i>	569
	The cosmology of the <i>Phaedo</i>	573
	"Beyond the heavens" in the <i>Phaedrus</i>	576
	The <i>Symposium</i>	594
	"Beauty beyond beauty": Plotinus	601
	The rhetoric of the immaterial sublime	610
	Conclusion	618
	<i>Bibliography</i>	623
	<i>Index locorum</i>	658
	<i>General index</i>	680