# Table of Contents

**Abbreviations** vi  

**Introduction** 1  

**Chapter One: The Invisible Made Visible** 12  

1. *Introduction: Sexuate Difference* 12  
2. *Phase One: Critique of Western Philosophy and the Privilege of the Male Subject* 13  
   2.1. *Speculum as a Trope for Our Age: Extending the Analysis* 14  
      Figure 1. Sexual indifference 15  
      Figure 2. Sexual difference of dimorphic structure 19  
   2.2. *Sacred Sexual Difference* 19  
      Figure 3. Religious sexual indifference 20  
      Figure 4. Sexually differentiated model of religion 22  
   2.3. *Asymmetrical Contraries of Sexual Difference* 22  
   2.4. *Kore and the Allegory of the Cave* 30  
3. *Phase Two: Elaborating Sexual Difference* 34  
   3.1. *Irigarayan Contribution to Sexual Difference* 34  
   3.2. *Sex, Gender, and Sexuate Identity* 35  
      3.2.1. *Gender As Self-Limitation* 39  
      3.2.2. *Gender As Passive Belonging* 42  
      3.2.3. *Gender As Sensible Immediacy* 43
4. Phase Three: The Way of Love
   4.1 Irigaray’s Strategy: The Negative
   4.2. Rewriting the Negative
   4.3. Nature and Culture: The Double Dialectic
   4.4. The Spiritual Labor of Love

Chapter Two: Sexual Difference—Beyond Essentialism

1. Introduction
2. Irigaray and Psychoanalysis: The Freudian Lacanian Libidinal Self
   2.1. The Phallus
   2.2. Desire
   2.3. The Symbolic
   2.4. The Death of Mother
   2.5. The Imaginary
   2.6. The Mirror
   2.7. Body Morphology
3. Essentialism and Difference: The Question of Nature and Culture
   3.1. The Wrong-Headed Charge of Essentialism
      3.1.1 Essentialism of Sex and Gender
      3.1.2 Essentialism?
### Chapter Three: Sexual Difference and its Fling with the Philosophers: An Amorous Exchange

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3.1.3</td>
<td>Essentialism as Strategy?</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1.4</td>
<td>Essentialism of the Body?</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>Irigarayan Rhythm and Nature</td>
<td>102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2.1</td>
<td>Nature, Difference, and Limit</td>
<td>108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2.2</td>
<td>Difference and Diversity</td>
<td>110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Conclusion: Beyond Essentialism</td>
<td>112</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Chapter Three: Sexual Difference and its Fling with the Philosophers: An Amorous Exchange**

1. **Introduction**                         | 116  |
2. **Transforming Metaphysics: Heidegger** | 119  |
   2.1. Between Heidegger and Irigaray      | 120  |
   2.2. From Being to Nearness             | 124  |
      2.2.1 Air: the Unthought Ground of Thinking | 129  |
      2.2.2 The Way of Love: Proximity and Difference | 134  |
         2.2.2.1 Poetry                       | 136  |
         2.2.2.2 Silence                     | 139  |
3. **Dichotomies, Daimons, and Difference**| 142  |
4. **Existential Phenomenology**           | 147  |
   4.1. Merleau-Ponty                      | 150  |
      4.1.1 The Chiasm                     | 153  |
      4.1.2 Reading with Irigaray and Merleau-Ponty | 156  |
   4.2. Lévinas                           | 162  |