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                       Chapter II. TRANSFORMATIONS -- Chapter III. ORTHOGONALITY --
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   Sommario/riassunto As a newly minted Ph.D., Paul Halmos came to the Institute for
                       Advanced Study in 1938--even though he did not have a fellowship--
                       to study among the many giants of mathematics who had recently
                       joined the faculty. He eventually became John von Neumann's research
                       assistant, and it was one of von Neumann's inspiring lectures that
                       spurred Halmos to write Finite Dimensional Vector Spaces. The book
                       brought him instant fame as an expositor of mathematics. Finite
                       Dimensional Vector Spaces combines algebra and geometry to discuss
                       the three-dimensional area where vectors can be plotted. The book
                       broke ground as the first formal introduction to linear algebra, a
                       branch of modern mathematics that studies vectors and vector spaces.
                       The book continues to exert its influence sixty years after publication,
                       as linear algebra is now widely used, not only in mathematics but also
                       in the natural and social sciences, for studying such subjects as
                       weather problems, traffic flow, electronic circuits, and population
                       genetics. In 1983 Halmos received the coveted Steele Prize for
                       exposition from the American Mathematical Society for "his many

graduate texts in mathematics dealing with finite dimensional vector spaces, measure theory, ergodic theory, and Hilbert space."