

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910455956403321
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Titolo	Wandering, begging monks [[electronic resource]] : spiritual authority and the promotion of monasticism in late antiquity // Daniel Caner
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Berkeley, Calif., : University of California Press, 2002
ISBN	0-520-92850-4 1-59734-984-4
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (343 p.)
Collana	The Transformation of the classical heritage ; ; 33
Disciplina	271/.009/015
Soggetti	Monastic and religious life - History - Early church, ca. 30-600 Messalians Electronic books.
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. 281-309) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Contents -- Acknowledgments -- Abbreviations -- Introduction -- 1. Wandering in the Desert and the Virtues of Manual Labor -- 2. Apostolic Wanderers of Third-Century Syria -- 3. In Support of "People Who Pray": Apostolic Monasticism and the Messalian Controversy -- 4. Apostle and Heretic: The Controversial Career of Alexander the Sleepless -- 5. Hypocrites and Pseudomonks: Beggars, Bishops, and Ascetic Teachers in Cities of the Early Fifth Century -- 6. Monastic Patronage and the Two Churches of Constantinople -- Epilogue -- Appendix: The Life of Alexander Akoimtos -- Select Bibliography -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	An apostolic lifestyle characterized by total material renunciation, homelessness, and begging was practiced by monks throughout the Roman Empire in the fourth and fifth centuries. Such monks often served as spiritual advisors to urban aristocrats whose patronage gave them considerable authority and independence from episcopal control. This book is the first comprehensive study of this type of Christian poverty and the challenge it posed for episcopal authority and the promotion of monasticism in late antiquity. Focusing on devotional practices, Daniel Caner draws together diverse testimony from Egypt, Syria, Asia Minor, and elsewhere-including the Pseudo-Clementine

Letters to Virgins, Augustine's *On the Work of Monks*, John Chrysostom's homilies, legal codes-to reveal gospel-inspired patterns of ascetic dependency and teaching from the third to the fifth centuries. Throughout, his point of departure is social and cultural history, especially the urban social history of the late Roman empire. He also introduces many charismatic individuals whose struggle to persist against church suppression of their chosen way of imitating Christ was fought with defiant conviction, and the book includes the first annotated English translation of the biography of Alexander Akoimetos (Alexander the Sleepless). *Wandering, Begging Monks* allows us to understand these fascinating figures of early Christianity in the full context of late Roman society.
