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Nota di contenuto	Introduction -- Center and periphery -- God's chosen -- Creation -- Microcosms, wonders, paradise -- The dark side of paradise -- Postscript: on Abu Ghraib and some related contemporary matters.
Sommario/riassunto	How does religion stimulate and feed imperial ambitions and violence? Recently this question has acquired new urgency, and in Religion, Empire, and Torture, Bruce Lincoln approaches the problem via a classic but little-studied case: Achaemenian Persia. Lincoln identifies three core components of an imperial theology that have transhistorical and contemporary relevance: dualistic ethics, a theory of divine election, and a sense of salvific mission. Beyond this, he asks, how did the Achaemenians understand their place in the cosmos and their moral status in relation