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Nota di contenuto	Contents; Abbreviations, Terms, and Sigla; Introduction; 1. The Scope of This Study; 2. Issues in Discussing Monotheism and Polytheism; 3. Problems with the Term ""Canaanite""; 4. More Cautionary Notes: Literature, History, Theology, Myth; PART I: THE STRUCTURES OF DIVINITY; 1 Anthropomorphic Deities and Divine Monsters; 1. Place: Near, Foreign, and Far; 2. Blessing at Home and Abroad versus Destruction; 3. Animals: Domesticated versus Monsters; 4. The Head God and His Beloved Monsters; 5. Israelite Cosmic Enemies Tamed and Denied; 2 The Divine Council; 1. The Language of Council 2. The Assemblies of El and Baal3. The Divine Council and Its Four Tiers; 4. Israel and the Tiers of the Pantheon; 3 The Divine Family; 1. The Four Tiers of the Divine Household; 2. The Royal Patriarchal Household as Model for the Pantheon; 3. The Astral Background of El's Family in Ugaritic and Israelite Literatures and Baal's Outsider Status; 4

Pluralities, Pairings, and Other Divine Relations; 1. Baal, Resheph, Yahweh, and Their Retinues; 2. Dead Rephaim and Kings, and the Power of Death in Life; 3. Pairings: Making Associations

4. Divine Possession and the Problem of Yahweh and His Consort

5. Representation of Divinity: Atthart as the "Name of Baal"; 6. Divinized Qualities of Deities; 7. Extension of Divinity: Cultic Places and Things; 8. Afterword: The Conceptual Unity of Ugaritic Polytheism; PART II: CHARACTERISTICS OF DIVINITY; 5 The Traits of Deities; 1. Strength and Size; 2. Body and Gender; 3. Holiness; 4. Immortality; 5. Postscript: Divine and Human Life (Or, My Breakfast with Shulamit); 6 The Life and Death of Baal; 1. Frazer's Hypothesis about "Dying and Rising Gods"; 2. Problems with the Category

3. The So-Called Dying and Rising Gods

4. Foundations for a Theory of Baal's Death and Return to Life; 5. The Conceptual Ideology in Baal's Life and Death; 6. The Mythology of Death and the God of Israel; PART III: THE ORIGINS OF MONOTHEISM IN THE BIBLE; 7 El, Yahweh, and the Original God of Israel and the Exodus; 1. El in the Bronze Age; 2. El in Iron Age Phoenicia; 3. El in Iron Age Aram and Transjordan; 4. El in Iron Age Israel; 5. Was El Israel's Original God?; 6. The Question of Yahweh's Original Character; 7. Was El the Original God of the Exodus?

8 The Emergence of Monotheistic Rhetoric in Ancient Judah

1. Defining Monotheism; 2. The Relative Infrequency and Rhetorical Purpose of Monotheistic Statements; 3. The Prior Context of Judean Discourse about Divinity; 4. The National God and Royal Ideology; 5. The Social and Historical Context of Monotheism; 9 The Formation of Monotheistic Theologies in Biblical Literature; 1. Creation, Paradise, and the Priesthood; 2. Wisdom and the Levites; 3. Apocalyptic Literature: The Case of Daniel 7; 4. From "Canaanite Myth" to Biblical Monotheism?; 10 Monotheism in Isaiah 40-55

1. The Polemical Context of Isaiah 40-55

Sommario/riassunto

One of the leading scholars of ancient West Semitic religion discusses polytheism vs. monotheism by covering the fluidity of those categories in the ancient Near East. He argues that Israel's social history is key to the development of monotheism.