

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910467149803321
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Titolo	Dimensions of Yahwism in the Persian period : studies in the religion and society of the Judaeen community at Elephantine // Gard Granerød
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Berlin, Germany ; ; Boston, [Massachusetts] : , : De Gruyter, , 2016 ©2016
ISBN	3-11-045317-7 3-11-045431-9
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (404 p.)
Collana	Beihefte zur Zeitschrift fur die alttestamentliche Wissenschaft ; ; Volume 488
Disciplina	296.09/014
Soggetti	Judaism - History - Post-exilic period, 586 B.C.-210 A.D Judaism - Egypt - Elephantine Electronic books. Judaea (Region) Religion
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 and indexes.
Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Preface -- Contents -- Abbreviations -- 1. Introduction -- 2. The Social Dimension -- 3. The Material Dimension -- 4. The Ritual Dimension -- 5. The Mythic and Narrative Dimension -- 6. The Ethical Dimension -- 7. Conclusion and Outlook -- Bibliography -- Index of Ancient Sources -- Index of Aramaic, Hebrew, Old Persian and Greek Words -- Index of Ancient Names, Deities and Epithets -- Index of Modern Authors
Sommario/riassunto	What was Judaeen religion in the Persian period like? Is it necessary to use the Bible to give an answer to the question? Among other things the study argues that • the religion practiced in the 5th c. BCE Elephantine community and which is reflected in the so-called Elephantine documents represent a well-attested manifestation of lived Persian period Yahwism,• as religio-historical sources, the Elephantine documents reveal more about the actual religious practice of the Elephantine Judaeans than what the highly edited and canonised texts of the Bible reveal about the religious practice of the contemporary Yahwistic coreligionists in Judah, and• the image of the Elephantine

Judaism emerging from the Elephantine documents can revise the canonised image of Judaeen religion in the Persian period (cf. A. Assmann). The Elephantine Yahwism should not be interpreted within a framework dependent upon theological, conceptual and spatial concepts alien to it, such as biblical ones. The study proposes an alternative framework by approaching the Elephantine documents on the basis of N. Smart's multidimensional model of religion. Elephantine should not be exoticised but brought to the very centre of any discussion of the history of Judaism.
