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Titolo	A New Gnosis : Comic Books, Comparative Mythology, and Depth Psychology // edited by David M. Odorisio
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Nota di contenuto	A New Gnosis: The Comic Book as Mythical Text -- Part I A New Gnosis: Comic Books as Modern Mythology -- Dreaming the Myth Onward: Comic Books as Contemporary Mythologies -- From Horror to Heroes: Mythologies of Graphic Voodoo in Comics -- Mystico-Erotics of the "Next Age Superhero": Christian Hippie Comics of the 1970s -- The Flying Eyeball: The Mythopoetics of Rick Griffin -- Graphic Mythologies -- Part II Archetypal Amplifications: Comic Books, Comparative Mythology, and Depth Psychology -- Archetypal Dimensions of Comic Books -- All-Female Teams: In Quest of the Missing Archetype -- Infirm Relatives and Boy Kings: The Green Man Archetype in Alan Moore's The Saga of The Swamp Thing -- The Shadow of the Bat: Batman as Archetypal Shaman -- "To Survive and Still Dream": Ritual

and Reclamation in Little Bird -- Graffiti in the Grass: Worldbuilding and Soul Survival Through Image, Immersive Myth, and the Metaxis -- Afterword: Comics and Gnostics.

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## Sommario/riassunto

"[S]uperhero comics and science fiction...can and do function as transmission sites for what David Odorisio has called the "new gnosis." Superpowers are real. So are the altered states of knowing and excessively weird paranormal phenomena or "special effects"...that often lie behind the conception and within the very artistic execution of these genres on the page, on screen, and in life. This is, by far, the most important resonance between [my own *Mutants and Mystics*] and this book—the gnostic transmission. I would immediately add that the vast, vast majority of such psi-fi gnostics will never be known as such. They exist silently in the margins of the culture, which, paradoxically, is also somehow the center." —Jeffrey J. Kripal, from the Afterword

Superhero phenomena exploded into 20th- and 21st-century popular culture by way of the visual medium of comic books. In an increasingly secular (yet spiritual) culture that has largely renounced "the gods" (and even religion), what does the return of the superhero through our own pop cultural mythologies say to us—or even about us? This collection of essays from leading and up-and-coming scholars in the fields of comparative mythology and depth psychology considers the return of the superhero as representative of our own unique emergent modern mythology: a wildly diverse pantheon that reflects back to us our most far-reaching hopes and (im)possible (super)human desires. In placing the interpretive tools of comparative mythology and depth psychology alongside the comic book phenomenon, a super-powered palette emerges that unveils the hidden potential of modern readers' own heightened imaginations. The essays in this anthology examine select comic book and superhero characters from the "Silver Age" 1960s through contemporary 21st-century adaptations and innovations, as readers are invited to discover and uncover what the (re)emergence of these perennial gods and goddesses have to say about our own secret super selves today. David M. Odorisio is Associate Core Faculty and Co-Chair of the Mythological Studies program at Pacifica Graduate Institute, USA. He is editor of *Merton and Hinduism: The Yoga of the Heart* (2021) and co-editor of *Depth Psychology and Mysticism* (2018). David teaches in the areas of psychology, religion, and comparative mysticism, and has published in numerous journals in the fields of Jungian and transpersonal psychology.

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