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Nota di contenuto	Contents; Foreword; Acknowledgments; Contributors; Introduction; 1 The Way of the Ascetics: Negative or Affirmative?; 2 The Howl of Oedipus, the Cry of Heloise: From Asceticism to Postmodern Ethics; 3 Women and Asceticism in Late Antiquity: The Refusal of Status and Gender; 4 Christian Asceticism and the Emergence of the Monastic Tradition; 5 Asceticism and Mysticism in Late Antiquity and the Early Middle Ages; 6 Practical, Theoretical, and Cultural Tracings in Late Ancient Asceticism: Response to the Three Preceding Papers 7 Rejecting the Body, Refining the Body: Some Remarks on the Development of Platonist Asceticism 8 Primitive Christianity as an Ascetic Movement; 9 Tibetan Buddhist Perspectives on Asceticism; 10 Trajectories of Ascetic Behavior: Response to the Three Preceding Papers; 11 Asceticism and Anthropology: Enkrateia and ""Double Creation"" in Early Christianity; 12 Ascetic Closure and the End of Antiquity; 13 Pain, Power, and Personhood: Ascetic Behavior in the Ancient Mediterranean; 14 Asceticism-Audience and Resistance: Response to the Three Preceding Papers

15 Deconstruction of the Body in Indian Asceticism 16 Ascetic Moods in Greek and Latin Literature; 17 Asceticism in the Church of Syria: The Hermeneutics of Early Syrian Monasticism; 18 Ascetic Moods, Hermeneutics, and Bodily Deconstruction: Response to the Three Preceding Papers; 19 The Founding of the New Laura; 20 Dreaming the Body: An Aesthetics of Asceticism; 21 Mirabai as Wife and Yogi; 22 Understanding Asceticism-Testing a Typology: Response to the Three Preceding Papers; 23 The Significance of Food in Hebraic-African Thought and the Role of Fasting in the Ethiopian Church 24 Simeon the New Theologian: An Ascetical Theology for Middle-Byzantine Monks 25 Asceticism and the Compensations of Art; 26 Sensuality and Mysticism-The Islamic Tradition: Response to the Three Preceding Papers; 27 Asceticism and the Moral Good: A Tale of Two Pleasures; 28 Gender and Uses of the Ascetic in an Islamist Text; 29 Maximus the Confessor on the Affections in Historical Perspective; 30 Toward a Politics of Asceticism: Response to the Three Preceding Papers; 31 Renunciation and Gender Issues in the Sri Vaisnava Community 32 Body Politic among the Brides of Christ: Paul and the Origins of Christian Sexual Renunciation 33 Athanasius of Alexandria and the Ascetic Movement of His Time; 34 The Politics of Piety: Response to the Three Preceding Papers; 35 The Ascetic Impulse in Religious Life: A General Response; Appendix: Ascetica Miscellanea; 36 The Battle for the Body in Manichaean Asceticism; 37 The Allegorization of Gender: Plato and Philo on Spiritual Childbearing; 38 Shame and Sex in Late Antique Judaism; 39 A Theory of the Social Function of Asceticism; 40 Psychophysiological and Comparative Analysis of Ascetico-Meditational Discipline: Toward a New Theory of Asceticism

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Sommario/riassunto

From meditation and fasting to celibacy and anchoritism, the ascetic impulse has been an enduring and complex phenomenon throughout history. Offering a sweeping view of this elusive and controversial aspect of religious life and culture, this book examines the ascetic impulse.

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