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Autore	Lawson Todd
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Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Front Cover; Gnostic Apocalypse and Islam; Copyright Page; Contents; Acknowledgments; Introduction: Qur'an, apocalypse, and gnosis; 1. Commentary and imitation: charismatic text, messianic exegesis; 2. Voices of the text: remembrance and gate; 3. Renewal of covenant: coincidentia oppositorum and the primal point; 4. The metaleptic Joseph: the shirt, the Bees, and gnostic apocalypse; Conclusion: hermeneutic spiral; Appendix 1: manuscript of Surat al-Naul; Appendix 2: Surat al-Nahl transcription; Notes; Bibliography; General index; Index of Qur'anic verses
Sommario/riassunto	Of the several works on the rise and development of the Babi movement, especially those dealing with the life and work of its founder, Sayyid Ali Muhammad Shirazi, few deal directly with the compelling and complex web of mysticism, theology and philosophy found in his earliest compositions. This book examines the Islamic roots of the Babi religion, (and by extension the later Baha'i faith which developed out of it), through the Qur'anic commentaries of the Bab and sheds light on its relationship to the wider religious milieu and its profound debt to esoteric Islam, especially Shi'ism

