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Titolo	A roadmap to the heavens [[electronic resource] ] : an anthropological study of hegemony among priests, sages, and laymen / / Sigalit Ben-Zion
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Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- CONTENTS -- FOREWORD -- ACKNOWLEDGMENTS -- CHAPTER ONE. Introduction and methodological considerations -- CHAPTER TWO. Mapping the social identity "Priests" -- CHAPTER THREE. Mapping the social identity "Sages" -- CHAPTER FOUR. The relationship between the Haverim and 'Am ha'aretz -- CHAPTER FIVE. The self-awareness of the Sages as constituters of the counter-hegemony -- CHAPTER SIX. Exchange of ruling elites or the constitution of counter-hegemony? -- SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS -- AFTERWORD -- GLOSSARY OF HEBREW TERMS -- TRANSLATION OF PRIMARY SOURCES -- BIBLIOGRAPHY -- INDEX OF REFERENCES -- INDEX OF CONCEPTS -- INDEX OF NAMES
Sommario/riassunto	A Roadmap to the Heavens challenges readers to rethink prevailing ideas about the social map of Jewish society during the Tannaitic period (70 C.E. - 220 C.E.). New insights were made possible by applying anthropological theories and conceptual tools. In addition, social phenomena were better understood by comparing them to similar social phenomena in other cultures regardless of time and space. The book explores the rich and complex relationships between the Sages, Priests, and laymen who competed for hegemony in social, cultural, and

political arenas. The struggle was not simply a case of attempting to displace the priestly elite by a new scholarly elite. Rather, in the process of constituting a counter-hegemony, the attitude of the Sages towards the Priests entailed ambivalent psychological mechanisms, such as attraction - rejection, imitation - denial, and cooperation - confrontation. The book further reveals that to achieve political and social power the Sages used the established hegemonic priestly discourse to undermine the existing social structure. The innovative discovery of this monograph is that while the Sages professed a new social order based on intellectual achievement, they retained elements of the old order, such as family attribution, group nepotism, endogamy, ritual purity and impurity, and secret knowledge. Thus, social mobility based on education was available only to privileged social classes. The conclusion of the book is that even though the Sages resisted the priestly hegemony and attempted to disengage from it, they could not free themselves from the shackles of the priestly discourse and praxis.

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