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Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Contents -- Acknowledgments -- Abbreviations -- Introduction -- 1. Poetry, Ritual, And Associational Thought In Early India: The Sources -- 2. Poetry, Ritual, And Associational Thought In Early India: The Theories -- 3. Vinyoga: The Recovery Of A Hermeneutic Principle -- 4. Fire, Light, And Ingesting Over Time -- 5. The Vedic "Other": Spoilers Of Success -- 6. A History Of The Quest For Mental Power -- 7. The Poetics Of Paths: Mantras Of Journeys -- 8. A Short History Of Heaven: From Making To Gaining The Highest Abode -- Conclusions: Laughter And The Creeper Mantra -- Notes -- Glossary -- Bibliography -- Index Locorum -- Index Nominum -- General Index
Sommario/riassunto	This elegantly written book introduces a new perspective on Indic religious history by rethinking the role of mantra in Vedic ritual. In Bringing the Gods to Mind, Laurie Patton takes a new look at mantra as "performed poetry" and in five case studies draws a portrait of early Indian sacrifice that moves beyond the well-worn categories of "magic" and "magico-religious" thought in Vedic sacrifice. Treating Vedic mantra as a sophisticated form of artistic composition, she develops the idea of metonymy, or associational thought, as a major motivator for the use of mantra in sacrificial performance. Filling a long-standing

gap in our understanding, her book provides a history of the Indian interpretive imagination and a study of the mental creativity and hermeneutic sophistication of Vedic religion.

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