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Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Contents -- Acknowledgments -- Abbreviations -- Transliteration And Terminology -- Introduction: Christianity In Late Antique Iraq And The Legend Of Mar Qardagh -- Introduction To The Text -- The History Of The Heroic Deeds Of Mar Qardagh The Victorious Martyr -- Index Of Scriptural Citations -- 1. The Church Of The East And The Hagiography Of The Persian Martyrs -- 2. "We Rejoice In Your Heroic Deeds!" Christian Heroism And Sasanian Epic Tradition -- 3. Refuting The Eternity Of The Stars: Philosophy Between Byzantium And Late Antique Iraq -- 4. Conversion And The Family In The Acts Of The Persian Martyrs -- 5. Remembering Mar Qardagh: The Origins And Evolution Of An East-Syrian Martyr Cult -- Epilogue: The Festival Of Mar Qardagh At Melqi -- Appendix. The Qardagh Legend And The Chronicle Of Arbela -- Select Bibliography -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	This pioneering study uses an early seventh-century Christian martyr legend to elucidate the culture and society of late antique Iraq. Translated from Syriac into English here for the first time, the legend of Mar Qardagh introduces a hero of epic proportions whose characteristics confound simple classification. During the several stages of his career, Mar Qaragh hunts like a Persian King, argues like a Greek

philosopher, and renounces his Zoroastrian family to live with monks high in the mountains of Iraqi Kurdistan. Drawing on both literary and artistic sources, Joel Walker explores the convergence of these diverse themes in the Christian culture of the Sasanian Empire (224-642). Taking the Qrdagh legend as its foundation, his study guides readers through the rich and complex world of late antique Iraq.
