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Nota di contenuto	Introduction : theorizing the ancient theorists -- <i>Theoria</i> as a cultural practice -- Inventing philosophic <i>theoria</i> -- The fable of philosophy in Plato's Republic -- Theorizing the beautiful body : from Plato to Philip of Opus -- "Useless" knowledge : Aristotle's rethinking of <i>theoria</i> -- Epilogue : "broken knowledge"? : <i>theoria</i> and wonder.
Sommario/riassunto	In fourth-century Greece (BCE), the debate over the nature of philosophy generated a novel claim: that the highest form of wisdom is <i>theoria</i> , the rational 'vision' of metaphysical truths (the 'spectator theory of knowledge'). This 2004 book offers an original analysis of the construction of 'theoretical' philosophy in fourth-century Greece. In the effort to conceptualise and legitimise theoretical philosophy, the philosophers turned to a venerable cultural practice: <i>theoria</i> (state pilgrimage). In this practice, an individual journeyed abroad as an

official witness of sacralized spectacles. This book examines the philosophic appropriation and transformation of *theoria*, and analyses the competing conceptions of theoretical wisdom in fourth-century philosophy. By tracing the link between traditional and philosophic *theoria*, this book locates the creation of theoretical philosophy in its historical context, analysing *theoria* as a cultural and an intellectual practice. It develops a new, interdisciplinary approach, drawing on philosophy, history and literary studies.
