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Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. [285]-301) and index.
Nota di contenuto	pt. 1. Context. Perspectives and new directions : reflections on the state of scholarship -- The wandering kabbalist : historical profile and context. pt. 2. Reception and transmission. Receiving tradition, constructing authority -- Intentions and the recovery of meaning -- Seeing the secret : creative process and the hermeneutics of insight. pt. 3. Contemplative practice, mystical experience. Contemplation, theurgical action, and the presence of God -- Techniques of mystical contemplation : kavvanah and devotional experience -- Asceticism, prophecy, and mystical union.
Sommario/riassunto	As Light Before Dawn explores the mystical thought of Isaac ben Samuel of Akko, a major medieval kabbalist whose work has until now received relatively little attention. Through consideration of an extensive literary corpus, including much that still remains in manuscript, this study examines an array of themes and questions that have great applicability to the comparative study of mysticism and the broader study of religion. These include prayer and the nature of mystical experience; meditative concentration directed to God; and the power of mental intention, authority, creativity, and the transmission of wisdom.