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Titolo	Encountering the sacred : the debate on Christian pilgrimage in late antiquity // Brouria Bitton-Ashkelony
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Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Contents -- Preface -- Abbreviations -- Introduction -- 1 Basil of Caesarea's and Gregory of Nyssa's Attitudes toward Pilgrimage -- 2 Jerome's Position on Pilgrimage -- 3 Augustine on Holy Space -- 4 Pilgrimage in Monastic Culture -- 5 Local versus Central Pilgrimage -- Bibliography -- General Index -- Index of Places -- Index of Biblical Citations
Sommario/riassunto	This innovative study sheds new light on one of the most spectacular changes to occur in late antiquity-the rise of pilgrimage all over the Christian world-by setting the phenomenon against the wide background of the political and theological debates of the time. Asking how the emerging notion of a sacred geography challenged the leading intellectuals and ecclesiastical authorities, Brouria Bitton-Ashkelony deftly reshapes our understanding of early Christian mentalities by unraveling the process by which a territory of grace became a territory of power. Examining ancient writers' responses to the rising practice of pilgrimage, Bitton-Ashkelony offers a nuanced reading of their thinking on the merits and the demerits of pilgrimage, revealing theological and ecclesiastical motivations that have been overlooked, and questioning

the long-held assumption of scholars that pilgrimage was only a popular, not an elite, religious practice. In addition to Greek and Latin sources, she includes Syriac material, which allows her to build a rich picture of the emerging theology of landscape that took shape over the fourth to sixth centuries.
