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Autore	Dawson David
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Sommario/riassunto	Though its coinage can be traced back to a sixteenth-century translation of Leviticus, the term "scapegoat" has enjoyed a long and varied history of both scholarly and everyday uses. While William Tyndale employed it to describe one of two goats chosen by lot to escape the Day of Atonement sacrifices with its life, the expression was soon far more widely used to name victims of false accusation and unwarranted punishment. As such, the scapegoat figures prominently in contemporary theories of violence, from its elevation by Frazer to a ritual category in his ethnological opus <i>The Golden Bough</i>