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Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Preface -- Contents -- 1 Introduction: A Proverb and Its Protagonists, Their Rituals and the Region -- Part One: Kings, Subjects and Subaltern Sovereigns -- 2 Some Pan-Indian Ideas about Kingship -- 3 Indigenous Views on Kingship -- 4 Kings and Tribes: History and Models of Their Relationships -- Part Two: Proverbial Performances -- 5 Royal Rituals in Comparative Perspective: The King's Dasara -- 6 Rituals of Rice and Rebellion: The Ganga Festival of the Joria -- 7 Of Millet and Mounds: The Nandi Festival of the Joria -- 8 A Festival of "Flowers:" The Bali Jatra of the Mali -- 9 Transformations of the Dead: The Go'ter of the Gadaba -- 10 Conclusion: Navigating Life -- Appendix 1: Glossary of local terms (including botanical names) -- Appendix 2: Myths -- Appendix 3: Nandi song (Nandi git) -- Bibliography -- List of Tables -- List of Maps -- List of Photos -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	The vast and ancient topic of kingship in India has mostly been studied from the perspectives of rulers and other elites. But what constitutes sovereignty viewed from "below"? This book — ethnographic and comparative in its essence — deals with indigenous conceptualizations of sovereignty taking as its starting point a local proverb that connects the ritual (Dasara) of the king with festivals performed by his "tribal" subjects. The first part of the book initially introduces some pan-Indian ideas of kingship and proceeds to discuss indigenous notions of sovereignty as represented in rituals and myths in the region concerned (highland Odisha). The second part is devoted to the investigation of

the proverbial performances. Mainly based on historical sources first the Dasara festival of the king is discussed, subsequently the indigenous rituals are described and analyzed, which the author ethnographically documented around the turn of the millennium. Ultimately, the proverb and the rituals constitute the idea of a sacrificial polity in which rulers and ruled share sovereignty in the sense that they are co-responsible for the flow of life.
