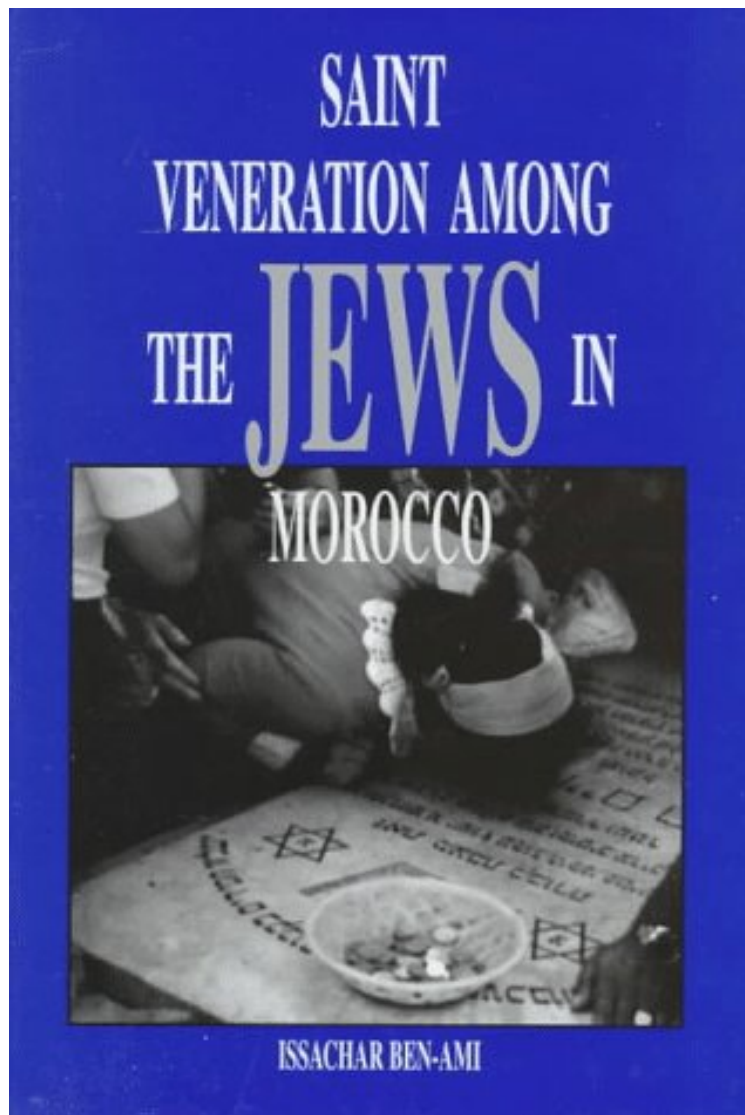


[Download] Saint Veneration among the Jews in Morocco (Raphael Patai Series in Jewish Folklore and Anthropology)

Saint Veneration among the Jews in Morocco (Raphael Patai Series in Jewish Folklore and Anthropology)

Issachar Ben-Ami

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Issachar Ben-Ami : Saint Veneration among the Jews in Morocco (Raphael Patai Series in Jewish Folklore and Anthropology) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Saint Veneration among the Jews in Morocco (Raphael Patai Series in Jewish Folklore and Anthropology):

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Despite Being Frowned Upon By Eliyahu Utterly fascinating, vivid,

moving description of a little-known area of Judaism. Appalling as it may be to many Western Jews, saint veneration is an ancient, deeply felt practice that is shared by Jews and Muslims in North Africa, and that is tenaciously observed despite being frowned upon by the "official" arbiters of tradition. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Absolutely Essential By Eric Maroney For the topic, this is the only book to read. It is a penetrating survey of saint veneration in Morocco and contains much material that is probably being saved for posterity (since most Moroccan Jews now live in Israel). Particularly useful is the appendix of interviews and tales. They are great stories, and belong in the pantheon of Jewish Folktales. Ben-Ami is exhaustive and meticulous in his scholarship and the work is flawless and well documented. This book deserves to be included in a series named after the great folklorist and ethnographer Raphael Patai.

Among Moroccan Jews, saint worship is an important cultural characteristic, practiced throughout the population. *Saint Veneration among the Jews in Morocco*, the only book in English on this topic, contains essential information about Moroccan Jewry not available anywhere else. The Hebrew edition, published by Magnes Press in 1984, has become a standard classic in the study of the history, culture, and religious practices of Moroccan Jewry. In this new English language edition, based on ten years of fieldwork, Issachar Ben-Ami provides the basic historical and ethnographic information about saint veneration. He illuminates the intricate network that connects the saints and their faithful followers, while revealing the ideological fundamentals that sustain the interrelationship and ensure ritual continuity. Using material selected from more than 1,200 testimonies collected during the course of his research, Ben-Ami describes historical and legendary types of saints, customs and beliefs related to the saints or their sanctuaries, and the practices and ceremonies that take place during or outside the *hillulah*, the festival that celebrates the anniversary of the death of a saint. Two chapters are dedicated to a comparison with the cult of saints among the Muslims in Morocco as well as to the relationship between Jews and Muslims in Morocco in what concerning saint veneration. In addition, Ben-Ami has included an exhaustive list of 656 saints-25 of whom are women-as well as documentation of the burial sites and legendary stories of the saints' lives as they have been told by their followers and worshippers in Israel. Also included are popular creative works such as legends, stories, dreams, and songs extolling the greatness and miraculous deeds of the saints. The picture that emerges from this study is that of a strong community of believing Jews who lived in the expectancy of the coming of the Messiah and welcomed miracles as part of their routine life. With the immigration of the Jews of Morocco to other countries, this fascinating world has disappeared, although it has found new ways of expression in Israel.

Language Notes Text: English (translation) Original Language: Hebrew About the Author Issachar Ben-Ami is a senior researcher and lecturer in the department of Jewish and Comparative Folklore at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He received his Ph.D. from Georg-August University in Göttingen, Germany, and is the author of several books including *Moroccan Jewry: Ethno-Cultural Studies* (Hebrew and French); *Jewish Holy Men of Morocco and Their Miracles* (Hebrew); and *Thousand and One Jewish Proverbs from Morocco* (Hebrew).