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Sommario/riassunto	Until the mid-fifties of the twentieth century, the city of Homs celebrated every year a great mawsem , the most spectacular ceremony of which was an impressive procession of Sufi brotherhoods. The author's investigation first consisted of collecting all the information still available on this festival from participants, most of them very old. Over the course of the interviews, it appeared that it was only the last and the best preserved of a series of seven spring festivals whose ethnological literature offers many parallels, in other towns or villages in the Near East. How did these seven spring festivals form a cohesive whole? How did they make sense to the participants? What can we know about their history? How and why did they disappear? Starting from a very local research, the investigation leads us to question certain general aspects of a traditional civilization today dying. Couldn't this glimpse into a lost world also contribute to understanding the crisis in which Near Eastern societies are struggling?