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Roots in the west: the cult of saints in Morocco -- From west to east: Moroccan jewry in Israel -- Native saints and immigrant saints: the sacred geography of Moroccan Jews in Israel -- Avraham Ben-Ayyim and Rabbi David u-Moshe -- A dream journey to the saint -- A saint in the next room: Rabbi David u-Moshe and the Ben-Ayyim family -- The abode of Rabbi David u-Moshe at the dawn of the 21st century --Ya'ish O'ana, Elijah the prophet and the gate of paradise -- The road to paradise -- Dreamers in paradise -- Paradise lost -- Alu Ezra and Rabbi Avraham Aouriwar -- Early and late revelations -- Life-story as folktale the cinderella of Beit Shean -- Years later -- The folk veneration of saints in Morocco and Israel -- Esther Suissa and Rabbi Shimon bar-Yorai -- From patient to healer -- Written in the egg yolk : the healing art of female -- Saints' impresarios -- Esther and Rabbi Shimon: a return visit -- The cult of saints from a comparative perspective: symbol, narrative, gender, and identity -- Crosscutting stories: the saints' impresarios from a comparative perspective --Personal symbols and mythic narratives -- Gender and sanctity: the female way to the Tsaddig -- Migrating traditions : the historic timing and the "shelf life" of the new shrines -- The cult of saints as an Israeli

and local phenomenon.

Sommario/riassunto

The astonishing revival of saint worship in contemporary Israel was ignited by Moroccan Jews, who had immigrated to the new country in the 1950's and 1960's. The Saints' Impresarios charts the vicissitudes of four new domestic shrines, each established by Moroccan-born men and women in a peripheral development town, following an exciting revelation involving a saintly figure. Each of the case studies discussing the life stories of the "saint impresarios" elaborates on a distinctive theme: dreams as psychocultural triggers for revelation; family and community responses to the initiative; female saint impresarios as healers; and the alleviation of life crises through the saint's idiom. The initiatives are evaluated against the historical background of Jews in Morocco and the sociopolitical and cultural changes in present-day Israeli society. The original Hebrew edition garnered the coveted Bahat Prize (Haifa University Press) for best academic book in 2006. For readers interested in Israel and Jewish Studies, folk religion and mysticism, cultural and psychological anthropology, and Moroccan Jews.