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Jadid Al-Islam: The Jewish "New Muslims" Of Meshhed (Raphael Patai Series In Jewish Folklore And Anthropology)



Synopsis

In 1839, Muslims attacked the Jews of Meshhed, murdering 36 of them, and forcing the conversion of the rest. While some managed to escape across the Afghan border, and some turned into true believing Muslims, the majority adopted Islam only outwardly, while secretly adhering to their Jewish faith. Jadid al-Islam is the fascinating story of how this community managed to survive, at the risk of their lives, as crypto-Jews in an inimical Shi'i Muslim environment. Based on unpublished original Persian sources and interviews with members of the existing Meshhed community in Jerusalem and New York, this study documents the history, traditions, tales, customs, and institutions of the Jadid al-Islam-"New Muslims."

Book Information

Series: Raphael Patai Series in Jewish Folklore and Anthropology

Hardcover: 344 pages

Publisher: Wayne State University Press (December 1, 1997)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0814326528

ISBN-13: 978-0814326527

Product Dimensions: 6 x 1 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

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Best Sellers Rank: #2,746,275 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #104 inÂ Books > Religion & Spirituality > Judaism > Movements > Reform #1020 inÂ Books > History > Middle East > Iran #2026 inÂ Books > Religion & Spirituality > Religious Studies > Ethics

Customer Reviews

I thoroughly enjoyed this book. Patai does a phenomenal job in depicting the events of the forced conversion to Islam of a small Jewish community in Mashaad, Iran. Anyone interested in anthropology or history should read this book. What makes this community of marranos unique, unlike any other forced converts, is that the community returned to its original faith after several generations. The strength of this community is apparent in their struggle to maintain their heritage and religion in secret, under the shadow of the sword.

As a 2nd generation American Mashadi Jew this was an amazing read. Patai does an incredible job in depicting the life my ancestors lived. Wonderfully written and an enjoyable read.

excellent!

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