



Moroccan Jewish Saint Veneration

There is a very specific Moroccan tradition of saint veneration that is common to both the Amazigh and Jewish communities. Believed to have its origins in pre-Islamic culture, the custom of celebrating the anniversary of the death of a saint helps give Moroccan religious life – Jewish and Islamic - its distinctive feel. In addition, members of both faith communities may visit the site throughout the year, believing it to provide an appropriate focus for a request for help in life.



The graves of nearly seven hundred Jewish saints, male and female, are to be found throughout Morocco, particularly in the south. The precise details of their life are often shrouded in mystery, with the earliest believed to have lived several hundred ago, while more recent, documented evidence exists about others. Their claim to distinction rests on a variety of factors – their reputation as scholars and communal leaders, healers and miracle workers, martyrs and even emissaries who were not native to Morocco but who died during their travels.

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