



'The Blood Worshippers'. The Rituals of the 'Isawiya Islamic Brotherhood in European Eyes (1850-1956) [

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Analítica

For decades, the ecstatic rituals of the Sufi brotherhood of the 'Isawa have attracted the attention of European travelers and journalists as they pass through the Maghreb. Through the texts of these external observers, I will show the paradoxes of these images of the 'Isawa centered on emphasizing the violent and irrational character of their ritual practices, while at the same time awakening a morbid curiosity to find an explanation for what the witnesses presented as pathological extravagances. With the rise of Islamic reformism and the interests of Franco-Spanish colonial policy, rituals were progressively domesticated from the 1930s onwards, and partially converted into spectacle, with the aim of avoiding a corporal and ritual disorder that challenged the new colonial order

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