

Rachel Sharaby

Renewed Interpretation of the Ethnic Tradition of Kurdish Immigrants in Israel

The article discusses the Seharane celebrations, the traditional spring celebrations of the Jews of Kurdistan that were renewed in public in Israel for the first time in 1975. The findings are based on content analysis of articles that appeared in the press and in journals of the community and on the testimony of interviewees. These findings show that the immigrants from Kurdistan exhibit a dual identity in the renewal of the Seharane, which is rooted on the one hand in their Israeliness and on the other hand in their ethnic uniqueness originating from their sense of otherness. The process of the Seharane's move towards the cultural center and its renewed interpretation as an ethnic tradition reflect its dynamic syncretic aspects. This dynamic strengthens the perspective emphasizing human freedom in the interpretation and shaping of tradition, i.e., in choosing the elements from which identity is constructed.

Keywords: Tradition, identity, immigration, Kurdistan, syncretism, celebration