

Norman Simms



Masks
in the Mirror

Marranism in Jewish Experience

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Masks in the Mirror: Marranism in Jewish Experience



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Sephardic Jews who voluntarily or forcibly converted to Catholicism in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries to avoid persecution or expulsion were known as conversos or New Christians. It looks at the enjoy of masks, the secrecy and the illusion, that Marranos experienced daily, which some attempted to exorcise within their writings, and it explores the possibility of applying the concept of Marranism generically. Others had been in circumstances that was neither Jewish nor Christian, and, as painful and humiliating as it was, these Marranos (a term for conversos that became abusive), in fact created a new sort of modern personality. Focusing on family members and childrearing, this book attempts to understand the structures of feeling that developed such madness, which while debilitating could often be innovative and exciting, specifically among poets, playwrights, and novelists. By tracing using this disparaging term, *Masks in the Mirror* also explores the type of the historical situations as it becomes obvious that anyone living under these circumstances - continuously threatened and persecuted by the Inquisition and suspected of being heretics and untrustworthy by their Christian co-workers and neighbors - could possibly be driven to a state of madness. Some attempted to live the double lifestyle of a Crypto-Jew, outwardly embracing Christianity while secretly preserving Jewish practices.



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