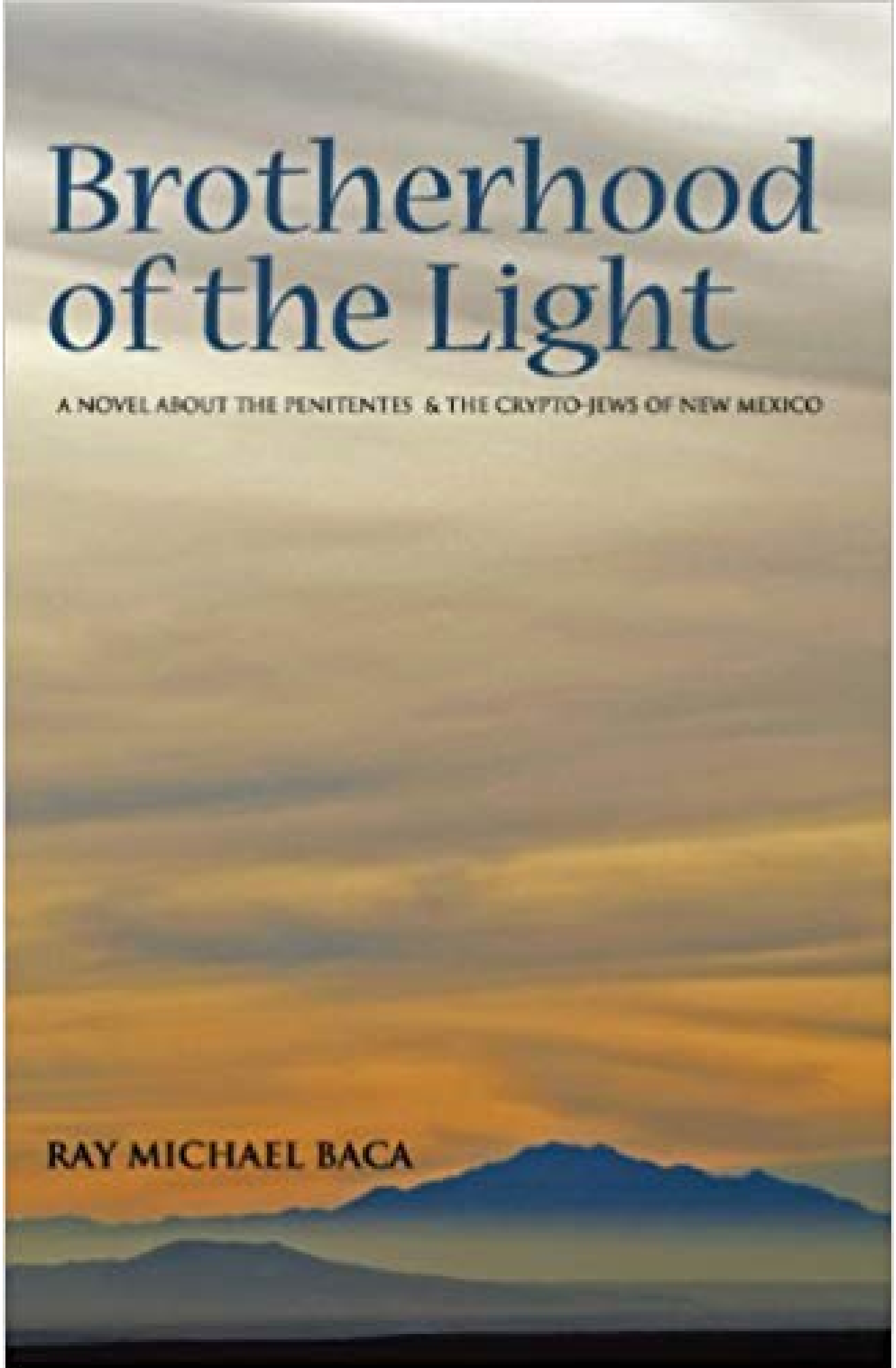


# Brotherhood of the Light

A NOVEL ABOUT THE PENITENTES & THE CRYPTO-JEWS OF NEW MEXICO

RAY MICHAEL BACA



Ray Michael Baca

Brotherhood of the Light: A novel about the Penitentes and the Crypto-Jews of New Mexico



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Brotherhood of the light follows the lives of three men from one family who lived in various centuries but were inexorably bound by the legacy of a cross that was brought from the Aged World to the New. Ray Michael Baca was created in Albuquerque, New Mexico in 1959, and he was raised in the small town of Bernalillo. Descendents of Sephardic Jews who fled the Inquisition in Spain, the family joined up with Los Hermanos Penitentes. On departing New Mexico in 1988, he contended, "I have already been trying to create my way back home since. And, Andres Castillo, a boy of thirteen in the early 1800's taken as a slave by Navajo raiders. Spiritually, he is devoid of a true set of beliefs, as he's one who knows of the family's past through inherited oral history. He attended Navajo Community University in Tsaile, Arizona, and gained both Bachelor of Science and Master of Research degrees from Regis University; Is definitely he Catholic, or is usually he Jewish? Is certainly he something because he was born into it, or is definitely he something because he believes? Others in John's long genealogy include Ramon Bemal de Castilla, a Sephardic Jew who leaves Spain in the 1590's as a reluctant Conquistador, joins Juan de Onate's troops to stay Nuevo Mexico, and is the first keeper of the cross that started in the forges of Castile. John Castillo lives in this century, and is in search of the cross which acquired become dropped two-hundred years before. Having hid the cross in a desperate attempt to save it, he returns years later on to the hiding place with his son and grandsons as a tribute to the spiritual prosperity it has taken to them all. Moving seamlessly between your past and present, weaving collectively the intricacies of spiritual fundamentalism, unwavering faith, and a genuine passion for understanding one's past, Ray Michael Baca will take us on a trip into the stark, gorgeous desert, and the romantic valley of the Rio Grande, where Spanish dreams and Native souls have clashed and then resided as neighbors for 400 years. A relic that experienced come to prominence at the battle for Granada, when Spain united to expel the Moors. He's conflicted with who he is. a Jesuit university in Denver, Colorado. This secretive culture of lay Catholic men in Northern New Mexico, who have confidence in emulating Christ's Enthusiasm, his trial, his walk, and his suffering on the cross at the end of each Lenten time of year, was used for twelve generations as a shield by the family members to disguise their Crypto-Jewish identification while they struggled with the legacy bestowed upon them."



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