Rituals of Fertility and the Sacrifice of Desire: Nazarite Women's Performance in South Africa

Carol Ann Muller


In this book, Muller explores the role of women in the Nazarite movement in South Africa. The Nazarites, a religious group founded by J. G. Shembe in 1910, are known for their strict adherence to a lifestyle of sacrifice and self-denial. Muller examines the ways in which women participate in these practices and how they are seen as symbols of fertility and fertility.

Against the backdrop of South Africa's turbulent history, Muller shows how fertility and the sacrifice of desire are central to the Nazarite movement. She provides detailed descriptions of the rituals and customs associated with these practices, and analyzes the ways in which they are transmitted and understood.

Muller's approach is interdisciplinary, drawing on anthropology, ethnomusicology, and gender studies. She provides a detailed analysis of the historical context of the Nazarite movement and its relationship to broader social and political forces in South Africa.

Overall, this book offers a unique perspective on the role of women in the Nazarite movement and their significance in the context of South African history. It is a valuable resource for anyone interested in the study of women, religion, and African studies.