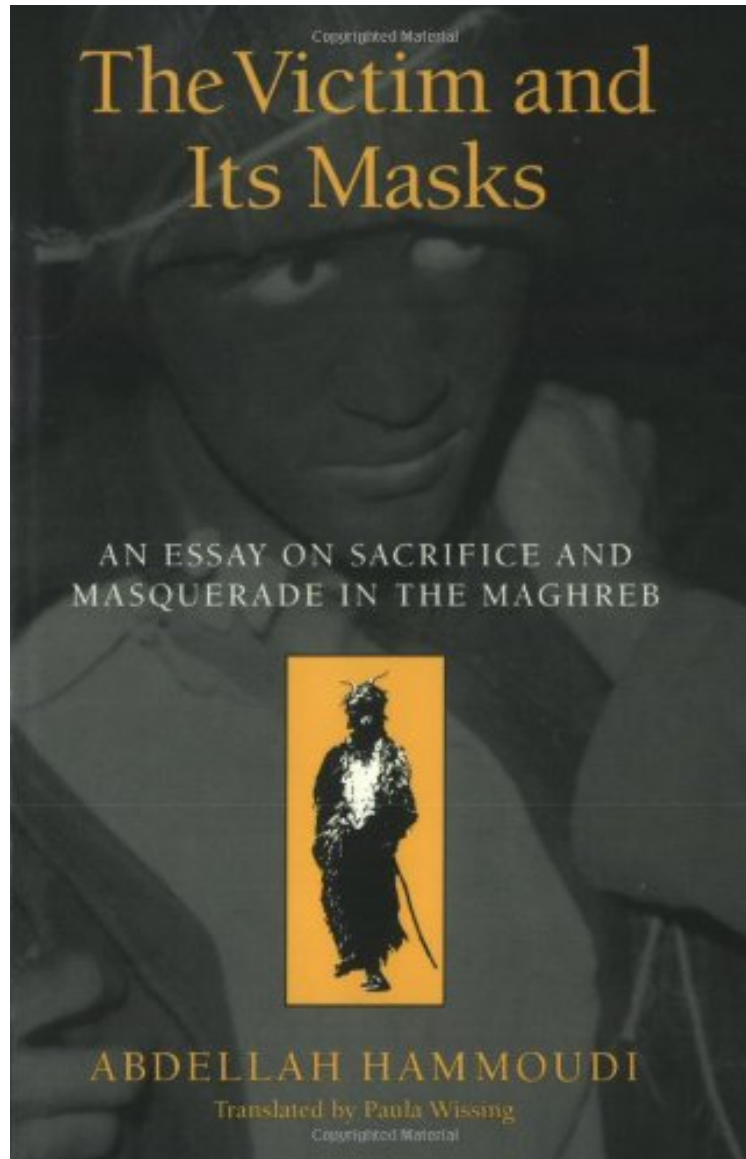


[Library ebook] The Victim and its Masks: An Essay on Sacrifice and Masquerade in the Maghreb

# The Victim and its Masks: An Essay on Sacrifice and Masquerade in the Maghreb

*Abdellah Hammoudi*

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Each year, in a solemn Sunni Muslim feast, the Ait Mizane of southern Morocco reenact the story of Abraham as a ritual sacrifice, a symbolic observance of their submission to the divine. After this sober ceremony comes a bacchanalian masquerade which seems to violate every principle the sacrifice affirmed. Because of the apparent contradiction between sacrifice and masquerade, observers have described the two as entirely separate events. This book reunites them as a single ritual process within Islamic tradition.

Language NotesText: English (translation) Original Language: FrenchFrom the Back CoverEach year, in a solemn Sunni Muslim feast, the Ait Mizane of southern Morocco reenact the Story of Abraham as a ritual sacrifice, a symbolic observation of their submission to the divine. After this sober ceremony comes a bacchanalian masquerade which seems to violate every principle the sacrifice affirmed. Because of the apparent contradiction between sacrifice and masquerade, observers have described the two as entirely separate events. This book reunites them as a single ritual process within Islamic tradition.About the AuthorAbdellah Hammoudi is professor of anthropology and Near Eastern studies at Princeton University.