

ABSTRACT

JA'LE – YEMENITE NOSTALGIA IN A JERUSALEM CAFÉ

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The paper presents a new manifestation of a Jewish-Yemenite ritual, Ja'le, which traditionally takes place in the family or a similar small and intimate context. The phenomenon in the present study was a Ja'le ritual that took place in a new context: a small Café. While maintaining several traditional characteristics, such as combining singing and eating, the Café Ja'le also presents many changes like its location in the public sphere, the lack of gender segregation, and the challenge to age hierarchy. These are used as a starting point to discuss tradition, heritage and nostalgia in Yemenite culture in Israel. The paper also presents a reflective discussion regarding the place of the ethnographer who plays an active role in the studied phenomenon.