

ISAAC JACK LÉVY AND
ROSEMARY LÉVY ZUMWALT

*Ritual Medical Lore of
Sephardic Women*

SWEETENING THE SPIRITS,
HEALING THE SICK

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS PRESS
URBANA AND CHICAGO

Contents

Acknowledgments ix

Introduction 1

1. *Keeping the Spirits Happy, Keeping the Family Healthy* 9
 2. *The Sephardim of the Ottoman Empire* 36
 3. *Memories of Time Past* 57
 4. *The Power of Speech* 74
 5. "Let It Go to the Garlic!" 94
 6. *Narrating Health, Marking the Social* 112
 7. *The Treasured Medicine and the Blessed Cure* 131
 8. *Prekante: A Ritual Prayer for Curing* 151
 9. *Saradura: The Ritual of Enclosure* 185
- Conclusion 203

Appendix: Interviewees 207

Notes 211

Bibliography 225

Index 241

Illustrations follow page 130