SIDI HMAD U MUSA OF TAZERWALT
(SOUTH MOROCCO)
AND THE TASHELHIYT BERBER ORAL TRADITION). 1

by
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1. Introduction

For Moroccans the name of Sidi Hmad U Musa2 of Tazerwalt (South Morocco) is inextricably bound up with the troupes of acrobats that one can see on the Jma‘ al-Fna, the famous square in the centre of the city of Marrakesh. This square is a real showcase of popular performance with a wide variety of attractions and among them are the boys and men dressed in colourful, circus-like costumes known as Ulad Sidi Hmad u Musa in Moroccan Arabic or as Ayt Sidi Hmad u Musa in Tashelhiyt Berber. They not only perform at the Jma‘ al-Fna in Marrakesh but in many other locations. In fact the Ayt Sidi Hmad u Musa perform all over Morocco, in countries of North Africa and the Middle East, as well as in European countries. Reports on their trips to Europe reach back over more than one century. The well-known Berberologist-Arabist Hans Stumme (1864-1936) met the Ayt Sidi Hmad u Musa on various occasions in Germany and Sweden in 1894 and benefitted greatly from their presence in Europe. With their help he was able to write some extraordinary contributions to Tashelhiyt Berber linguistics and oral literature, see the bibliography below.

The French officer Léopold Victor Justinard has devoted much scholarly attention to the historical Sidi Hmad u Musa and his role in Tashelhiyt Berber oral poetry. He called this saint le plus grand des saints

1. I am indebted to John Cooper (Norwich, United Kingdom) for the correction of the English of this article and for his stimulating remarks.

2. The first name of this saint is transcribed as Hamed by Laoust and Hmad by Justinard. With informants I heard Hmad, like Justinard. The second element of the name, u, means “son of”, with the plural ayt.
du Sous\textsuperscript{3}. Sidi Hmad u Musa was born in Bou Merouan in the Idaw Semlal region south-east of Agadir. His father was Sidi Musa, his mother Lalla Tawnut\textsuperscript{4}. The date of his birth is unknown. He died, at an advanced age, in 971 AH (1563 AD) and was buried in his zawiya outside the village of Iligh in the Tazerwalt region\textsuperscript{5}. Popular oral accounts say that Sidi Hmad u Musa went to Baghdad to visit the famous mystic Sidi Abdelqadir al-Jilani (1078-1166)\textsuperscript{6}, who lived more than three centuries earlier.

The saint and his adherents also played a political role in their time. Sidi Hmad u Musa was among the marabouts who fought against the Portuguese who, during his lifetime, tried to establish commercial settlements on the Moroccan coasts. Doyle Hatt depicts this period succinctly as follows\textsuperscript{7}:

In any case, the reaction to the Christian “commerce” along the coast within Morocco was intense and, during the 16th century, a movement grew up that would culminate in what some historians call the “maraboutic crisis”. Throughout Morocco, local religious leaders preached against the Portuguese incursions and raised small armies of followers to wage a jihad against them. Many of the charismatic reformers who were swept up in this movement were later to become revered as saints (“marabouts”), although their modern reputations have little to do with the irredentist jihad. These were the famous “saints of the tenth century” (tenth Muslim century): an entire generation of religious reformers who sprang up at one critical time of political ferment and ideological revisionism, and who made their mark on local religious practice in Morocco, and whose tombs have since become the prime landmarks in the “sacred space” of the Sūs: Sidi Sa‘id u ‘Abd an-Na‘im, Sidi Muhammad ben Sliman al-Jazuli, Sidi u Sidi (of Tarudant), Sidi Hmad u Musa, Sidi Brahim u ‘Ali, Sidi Megdul, etc.

In the first half of the seventeenth century the adherents of Sidi Hmad u Musa founded an independent marabout petty kingdom in the Tazerwalt region that lasted for more than one and a half centuries\textsuperscript{8}.

Still today, the tomb of Sidi Hmad u Musa is an object of veneration, particularly during the \textit{moussem}s, the annual fairs held in commemoration of

\begin{itemize}
\item 3. Justinard 1925: 238.
\item 5. Iligh is the central village of Tazerwalt. It is situated some 100 km south-east of Agadir, between the towns Tiznit and Tafrout.
\item 6. Abdelqadir al-Jilani (or as the Moroccans put it: al-Jilali), one of the greatest mystics in Islam, was born in Persia in 1078 AD and died in Baghdad in 1166. He founded the order of the Qadiriyya. For the visit of Hmad u Musa to this famous person, see Justinard 1933: 46.
\item 7. Hatt 1974: 18, 19.
\item 8. See Pascon e.a. 1984 and Justinard 1954, passim.
\end{itemize}
this great saint. One text from the *Fonds Roux*, states that three *moussem* are held each year for Sidi Hmad u Musa:

Many people still visit the tomb of Sidi Hmad u Musa. They say it is the “Mecca of the poor”. Three *moussem* are held there each year: one in August, one in March and the one they call the *moussem* of the Mejjat for the following reason: Once Sidi Hmad u Musa was with the Mejjat. One day when they were fighting, throwing stones at one another, Sidi Hmad u Musa got wounded on his head, blood flowed from his wound. They asked him: “What can we do to compensate for this wound?” He said to them: “You must organize a ritual meal (*lm* or *ruf*) each year, during which you eat porridge and throw stones at one another. Your harvests will be abundant and you should give a part of this to my descendants.”...

Another Tashelhiyt Berber text says that the *moussem* of Sidi Hmad u Musa used to be a famous slave market.

Once upon a time we were travelling to a country far away in order to buy male and female slaves. We wanted some slaves for ourselves and some to resell at the annual fair of Sidi Hmad U Musa, where many slaves are sold.

In oral literature of South Morocco this saint still plays a great role, both in songs and in oral accounts in prose. His name is invoked quite frequently by itinerant singer-poets (Moroccan Arabic and Tashelhiyt Berber: *rrways* or *rrays*) in the first lines of their songs. In her precious *Recueil de poèmes chleuhs*, Madame Galand-Pernet states:

Sidi Ahmed ou Moussa...est aussi un des grands saints du Maroc et le plus célèbre patron des chanteurs et, comme tel, souvent mentionné dans les chansons chleuhs. Cf. Our. 22, 23, *Sidi Hamed ou Moussa, nta kaf ntzor d awal | ifoulkin* “Messire Ahmed ou Moussa, c’est auprès de lui seul que je viens en pèlerin pour demander le don de belle parole”.

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9. A lively picture of the Sidi Hmad u Musa *moussem* was given by Abderrahmane Lakhsassi, professor of religious studies at the Mohammed V University, Rabat, in a lecture given at the ISIM Leiden on the 15th of November 2000.


12. The tribe Mejjat or in Tashelhiyt Berber, the *Imjįd*, plural of *amjįd* “scurfy-head (French: *teigneux*)”. This tribe is situated to the south-east of Tiznit, very close to Iligh, the actual location of the tomb of Sidi Hmad u Musa. For the special bond of Sidi Hmad u Musa with the Mejjat, see also Justinard 1954: 76.

13. Roux 1942: 102, Stroomer 2003: 200, 201. For the *moussem* of Sidi Hmad u Musa as a slave market, see also Justinard 1954: 11.

Another example is the song of Rays Ubidar “The crippled singer”, cited in one of the articles of Justinard 15:

\[
A \text{ Sidi Hmad u Musa, a yu izrwałt} \\
ad ak nyra, a yyi ṭhaḍrī i ṭimāṣt \\
O \text{ Sidi Ahmed u Musa, O son of Tazerwalt,} \\
\text{Let me invite you, please be present at this meeting.}
\]

In the forties of the 20th century Jean Podeur, an Officier des Affaires Indigènes, stationed at Tanalt, a village south of Agadir, recorded 16:

\[
A \text{ Sidi Hmad u Musa, iγ ak γ"riγ} \\
\text{ad arγ ikf Rbbi γ lǐnt, mani γ a ttīlīγ.} \\
\text{O Sidi Ahmed u Musa, when I call on you,} \\
\text{May God give me a place in Paradise, where I can stay.}
\]

Another song about Sidi Hmad u Musa, recorded by Corjon, another Officier des Affaires Indigènes, starts as follows 17:

\[
A \text{ Sidi Hmad u Musa, tini hli]git izm,} \\
\text{Hann, ayda n igigil, šșan as t akk" w mddh} \\
\text{O Sidi Hmad u Musa, if you are still a lion,} \\
\text{Know that people rob the belongings of orphans.}
\]

In Tiznit, 100 kms south of Agadir, I recorded a song in March 1990 by the 72 year old Rrays Boumia Aâchour. It begins as follows 18:

\[
A \text{ wa Sidi Hmad u Musa, jara d filah} \\
\text{γikam] ijar] wasif n Sus, gigan d aman.} \\
\text{O Sidi Hmad u Musa, flow over us,} \\
\text{like the Oued Sous flows, with its abundant waters.}
\]

The poem given in section 3h of this article is a poetic account of a part of the oral stories in prose (see 3a, 3b and 3f).

The name of Sidi Hmad u Musa is linked also to oral prose stories. Robert Montagne 19 reports that descendants of Sidi Hmad u Musa roam around in the region of Massa, a town south of Agadir, telling stories about the journeys of their forefather Sidi Hmad u Musa and telling, among others, the story of the ogre (see 3e below), the story about the pullers of the sun (see 3c below), and about Sidi Hmad u Musa seeing Bahmut, the legendary monster that carries the earth 20.

20. Montagne gives “Mahmout (le taureau), qui soutient la terre sur ses cornes”. Bahmut has various meanings according to Iraqui-Sinaceur 1993, vol. 1: 132: 1. “the infernal abyss” 2. “the legendary monster in the depth of chaos” 3. “a creature or being acting as carrier of the earth”
2 Motifs in the popular oral stories about Sidi Hmad u Musa.

In the translated fragments on the saint Sidi Hmad u Musa, given below in section 3, various themes and motifs, sometimes partially overlapping, can be observed:

1. Sidi Hmad u Musa is depicted as a wild boy in a group of adolescents or in a group of acrobats. He is asked to carry a basket with ripe, juicy figs for an old man or an old lady, which is a humble job for a proud young man. As his friends hope for a naughty trick, Sidi Hmad u Musa carries out his job seriously. The old woman (or old man) rewards him by granting him God’s favours. From then onwards Sidi Hmad u Musa leads a pious life. See the fragments 3a, 3b, 3f, 3h.

2. Sidi Hmad u Musa wants to have children, who must invoke the divine mercy for him and therefore he sends people away to find him a proper wife, see fragment 3f. In fragment 3e Sidi Hmad u Musa learns that being a father of children is considered such a merit that he decides to have children. He sends people out to find a woman for him. The woman they bring him reacts more sharply to the confrontation with Satan on the road to Sidi Hmad u Musa, than her companions do.

3. There are various confrontations of Sidi Hmad u Musa with phenomena from the cosmos: he helps angels to pull the sun (3c), he hangs his knapsack on a star (3e), he gets a glimpse of Heaven and the divine throne (3h), he meets Bahmut, he meets a giant snake whose tears make a river flow (3g).

4. The escape of Sidi Hmad u Musa from the cave of the ogre of fragment 3e, resembling the escape of Odysseus from the cave of Polyphemus gave rise to some speculations21.

3 Popular oral stories about Sidi Hmad u Musa.

The transcription used in the Tashelhiyt Berber texts below, follows in all details the one used in my earlier Tashelhiyt text-editions. I give a reanalysed, homogeneous transcription of the cited texts. I have deleted the schwa, written by Roux, Laoust and Justinard in various vowel qualities (e, ä, a), since it is not phonemic in Tashelhiyt. Moreover I have deleted the hyphen as an indicator of morpheme boundaries. In my translations I have tried to keep as close as possible to the Berber original as English usage permits.

fact, in Islamic cosmogony various beings act as “carriers” of the earth: angels, bulls, fishes, bull-fish-hybrids, etc.

3a. Sidi Ḥmad u Musa lliɣ ig aḥyyad. 22

Sidi Ḥmad u Musa γ ſšhab nns ikkattinn iqḍṣṣ bahra. Nnun ur a ittuqqar ḥitta yan zɣ willi t ugrnin; d yan ur ittuqqarren wida t ugrnin, ur a t ttsasín mddn f ṭmaṛt.

Iwa ihum γ ddunit Sidi Ḥmad u Musa lli. Aylliɣ iruḥ ntta d kra iḥyyaɣn yat tmazirt. Afn inn gis yan urgaz yug’m kra n wiyddin n waman. Iɣar srsn, inna ysn: “I Ṭḥḥat, a rrmra, zawnat yyi ad asīɣ ayddidn ad f ṭhhimt ad.” Nnan rrmn i Sidi Ḥmad u Musa: “Zayd, aws as!” Walayymi ur rin abla ag gis ḡqrn γ urgaz lli, igllin. Iftu Sidi Ḥmad u Musa, yall ayddidn n urgaz lli, walaymi inqib as in s ššīf! Zaydn waman ar d ttfṣin, ar tššan iḥyyaɣn. ɣayann ka yadalli ran!

Lkmn inn daɣ yat tfqqirt, tusi yan waryal n uknari. Tmna ysn: “Lḥurma nnun, allat yyi taryalt ad d umadl ad!” Nnan daɣ iḥyyaɣn i Sidi Ḥmad u Musa: “Asi yas, a wddi, taryalt amn i tfqqirt ad!” Walayymi ur daɣ rin abla ad ḡqrn. Yasi yas tt ur iggi n umadl. ɣ ḍḍur ad ila ẓqal nns, issfrḥ tafqqirt. Lliɣ a ittazzal γ umadl lli, tmna yas tfqqirt lli: “Zayd, a yiwi, ak k issrḥṣ Ṭbbi ar d a tsrbaḥt mak k iwalan!” Inmma iwrrid d, ar itṭṣḥad.

3a. When Sidi Ḥmad u Musa was an acrobat.

Sidi Ḥmad u Musa was very naughty in his youth. They say that he did not have any respect for people older than himself; one who does not respect older people is not taken seriously.

This Sidi Ḥmad u Musa roamed around in the world. Then, one day, he and some acrobats arrived in a village. They found a man there who was busy drawing water from a well by means of several leather waterbags. He called them saying: “Please, O archers 23, help me carry these leather waterbags to my beast of burden.” The archers said to Sidi Ḥmad u Musa: “Come on, help him!” They only did this to mock this man, poor fellow! Sidi Ḥmad Musa came, lifted the man’s leather waterbags up, at the same time piercing them with a needle! Water started to flow out and the acrobats started to laugh. This is really what they were looking for!

They also met an old lady (on the road) carrying a basket full of figs. She said to them: “Please, carry this basket up this hill for me!” The acrobats said again to Sidi Ḥmad u Musa: “Carry this basket up for this old lady, O

23. The now extinct brotherhood of archers (Moroccan Arabic and Tashelhiyt Berber: ṭrmma, transcribed in the title of Quedenfeldt 1889 as Ormā) were affiliated to the brotherhood of Sidi Ḥmad u Musa. Their patron is Sidi Ali bn Naṣīr, who was a pupil of Sidi Ḥmad u Musa.
son!" They only wanted to have some fun again. He carried the basket to the top of the hill. This time he remained sensible and pleased the old lady. When he had climbed that hill (for her), the old lady said to him: "Go, my son, and may God bless you and bless your future actions!" Then he came back (to his companions) and (decided to) devote his life to God.

3b. Sidi Ḥmad u Musa. 24

"Ar ttinin mddn Sidi Ḥmad u Musa ikkattinn idʤʤ bahra lliʤ sul imẓẓiy. Tigut as tdwwayt. Iγ illa gr tarwa n lmudʤ nns, taft t inn, yuti tn kullu γ taqqur, aylliy γ ittussan s tdwwayt igettun. Iγ a ttlezbn tarwa n lmudʤ γ kra n mani, imil izri filasn kra n ilq, irin ag gis dḍsαn, ar nn filas ssak"ayn Ḥmad u Musa lli s ssm is a ur ifthṣṣam.

Ar yan wass mnaγn rreeyαn takurtt. Izri filasn yan uffqir iṣihan, iγmin, irba yat taryalt, yall tt, illa gis lffakit n tazart. Ibd⁷, inna i rreeya ann : "I Rbbi, a ifřαn, is illa ma izdaγn ay yyi giguγ yasi taryalt ad ar tigmn mi nou? Hati, ḫimin ixsαn inu, γwa nna yyi tt yisin, rad as dzwγ at t issrbh Ṛbbi!" Sawln rreeya ann, nnaγ as : "Ḥmad u Musa a izdaγn ad ak tt γasi!" Run nntn ag gis tīnaγn, zema, asku ssm iz d Ḥmad u Musa is bahra idvi. Nnaγ ak imil rad uk"an yamz taryalt ann lli γ illa tazart γ dar uffqir ann, iluγ tt, izluγz lffakit lli gis illan. Uk"an grun tt nntn iγ tluγza ; sul xmmγn, γakudann, ammas n bab n taryalt. Maγš Ḥmad u Musa, ikfα as Rbbi lsq nns γassαm, ihdu t. Ur d iswaγir tdwwayt nns. Ar gis kullu tizγjab mnnn lliγ iyδδδδδ δyδδδ, ur iluγ taryalt ! Inun Ḥmad u Musa d uffqir lli ar tigmn nns, ifk as taryalt nns. Isawl d uffqir ann, inna as : "Ak k issrbh Ṛbbi!"

Mn γassαm nnn lli γ as ıdeγ uffqir ann at t ihda Ṛbbi, ifl tdwwayt lli tt isala d tarwa n lmudʤ. Uk"an ilmmα, isala agayyγu nns aylliyγ ıga lwali imqγən.

Ityγara γ ıktub n mddn lli zrin γzd in γd Sidi Ḥmad u Musa is tt inn ikka 25 isiyγ bahra γ tmizαr n ddunit. Sidi Ḥmad u Musa ur d Taγzwalt lli γ ittumdad l αγan darsn s lsq. Tazmαtir n Ida u Smlαl αγan darsn ; nttαn α γ iluγ, itttumdq gis babas Sidi Musa. Ida u Smlαl γan ʃʃαfα tyyαζηn.

Sidi Ḥmad u Musa, illα ma innaγ izγα leζlm, illa ma innaγ izγα aγαr laq'rαn wαlhdαt. Tawwurγ nns a stt ıγan γ zzmαn nns, ar innmα l mddn aγaras s Ṛbbi. Nttαn ıga ımdαδaƙα l n ʃʃαx Sidi Mḥmmd u Braγim u Tmanαrt, asku nttα ıds δlлαn γ yαn zzmαn ! Ar ttinin γ ass lli γ inμαt Sidi Mḥmmd u Tmanαrt iddα Sidi

25. Is tt inn ikka is the same as ikkattinn "once, once upon a time". The different syntactic order of elements is triggered by the element is.
People say that Sidi Hmad u Musa was very naughty when he was a little boy. He was very mischievous. When he was among the children of his village, you could see that he surpassed them all with his big mouth (lit.: in noise), so that he was, in the end, quite well known for his naughtiness. When the children of the village were playing somewhere and (if) some person then passed by whom they would like to mock, they encouraged Hmad u Musa, who, as they knew, had no scruples (to occupy himself with the passer-by).

One day the children were playing football. A tired grey old man passed by, carrying a basket containing figs. He stopped and said to those children: “Please, O children, is there someone among you who can carry this basket to my house? I am very tired (my bones are tired). For the one who will carry it for me, I shall ask God to make him prosperous!” The children spoke to him, saying: “Hmad u Musa can carry it for you!” (Of course) they wanted (Hmad u Musa) to cheat on him, because they knew that he was very impertinent. They thought that he would take that basket with figs from the old man, that he would throw it down and scatter the figs that were in it. Then they would pick up the figs when they were scattered and they would mock the owner of the basket. But that day God gave him understanding, (God) guided him. Hmad u Musa did not show his naughtiness. The people were amazed to see him act so calmly, he did not throw down the old man’s basket at all! Hmad u Musa went together with the old man to his house and gave him his basket. The old man said to him: “May God make you prosperous!”

From the day onwards that this old man had asked (God) to guide (Hmad u Musa), Hmad u Musa quit his naughtiness that he had practised (so often) in the presence of the children of the village. He devoted his life (to God) and became a great saint.

It is written in the books of the people from the past that Hmad u Musa had once travelled much in countries all over the world. Sidi Hmad u Musa was originally not from Tazerwalt, where he is buried. He was born in the region of Ida Usemlal, where his father, Sidi Musa, is buried. The Ida Usemlal are famous sharifs.

26. For an old man with the basket of figs see also Justinard 1954: 19.
Some people say that Hmad u Musa studied (religious) sciences, others say that he knew only the Koran. It was his job in his time to point out the road of God to the (common) people. He was a friend of Si Muhammad u Brahim of Tamanart 27, as they lived at the same time! They say that on the day Sidi Muhammad of Tamanart died, Sidi Hmad u Musa went to Tamanart and said to (this village): “Farewell Tamanart, provider (lit.: mother) of stones, clothes and soup! One should leave (the place), where one loses a friend!”

People say also that Sidi Hmad u Musa used to say: “If people respect Hmad u Musa (that is all right, but) look, Hmad u Musa also respects himself!”

3c. Ssabab n litihal n Sidi Ḥmad u Musa. 28


Imil yan wass ar t t lddīn, tagγi: ur tri ad asn ftftu γmlkllī myrn. Isqsa Sidi Ḥmad u Musa yan zγ lmluk lli dids llānīn. Inna yasān: “Mat tufa tafūkt, ayliγ ur tri γassād a tfttu?” Nnan as lmluk lli: “A wddī, yan ddrūwš ḫan darṣ tarwa mẓẓiynīn, nns iḍgām bla ḫnnīsī. Inkr babatsn, iddu 伊斯q, afad ad asn d yawi ma s a ṭṭtṣātn. Khn dγ γassād bla 伊斯qī. Ikṣuq babatsn iγ dγ nnsn bla ḫnnīsī ḫttā γiḍād ag IGINAL stūfat. Iddāl ddrūwš ad i Rbbi ad ur ṭuḥ tafūkt, ard islm k in tarsa nns ma s a ṭṭtṣātn. ṭayānn a f ur tri tafūkt a ṭzzigū!” Isawl d inmmma Sidi Ḥmad u Musa lli, inna ysn i lmluk lli: “Maṣx? Illa nγ iγgi n wakal ma mmu ḫḏār dduza nns at tṣḥ tafūkt γ ignwaγ?” Nnan as: “Maṣx? Is ur tṣṣint, iz d lyyar n lẓibada n Rbbi i yān, iγ a ṭṣazzl ṭ tarwaʔ?” ṭakuddan inmmma ad d ḏγγγ Sidi Ḥmad u Musa baḍ a ẓṣdī i Sidi Rbbi, inna yasān: “A Sidi Rbbi, ad yyi tmmāt, ad ggγγzγ s wakal ad skrγ tarwa nu.”


Imil lliγγ lkmm dar tmγγart, awin tt id. Lkmm d nγγ kra n IGINAL γ, afn d gis yan

27. For this story see also Justinard 1933: 23, for this saint see Justinard 1933: 100-105.
People tell us that Sidi Hmad u Musa asked God, in his youth, to guide him towards a life of pious devotion. God did guide him to this. He did devote his life (to God). One day he asked God to make him one of the pullers of the sun, that is: one of those who pull the sun. God sent (some) angels to him, notably those who pull the sun. He accompanied them and they went to pull the sun. When (the sun) rises, they pull until it separates itself (from the earth) above the mountains. They accompany it, until it goes down. But if the sun has to set, they have to pull also, until it disappears.

One day they pulled (the sun), but it refused (to go further); it did not want to go (by the path) they were used to. Sidi Hmad u Musa asked one of the angels who were with him (about it). He said to them: “What does the sun find (on its way) when it does not want to proceed (like it does) today?” The angels said to him: “O friend, (perhaps it was stopped by) a poor man with small children, who went to sleep yesterday without a proper meal. Their father had gone to the market to bring them something with which they could feed themselves. Also today they spent the (whole) day without any food (in their stomachs). Their father fears that one of them may die of hunger, if they would go to sleep without food again tonight! This poor fellow asked God not to move the sun, until he has brought home something to eat for his children. That is why the sun refuses to go down!” Sidi Hmad u Musa spoke and said to the angels: “How come? Is there really someone on earth whose prayer can stop the sun in heaven?” They said to him: “Why not? Don’t you know that the best way to devote oneself to God is when one looks after one’s children?”

At that moment Sidi Hmad u Musa wanted to descend to earth after he had prostrated himself before God, saying: “O God, command me to descend to earth and to have my children.”

3c. Why Sidi Hmad u Musa married.
When he had descended (back to earth) he assembled his friends and family and said to them: “I want to marry. Find a modest woman for me, who is compatible with me.” They said to him: “There is Miss So-and-so, a very clever woman!” He sent them to her, but he said to them: “Be cautious, there are thieves on the road. Someone might (try to) rob you!”

When they had come to that woman, they brought her (along to him). (On the way back) they arrived at a fork in the road and found a grey (old) man who said to them: “Peace on you, O relatives of ours!” They said to him: “May God keep you healthy!” He said to them: “Where are you going?” They said to him: “We are going to Sidi Hmad u Musa.” (The old man) said to them: “May God have mercy on him, poor fellow!” They said to him: “Why? Is he dead?” He said to them: “We buried him in his grave only a short time ago; take the woman back to her parents.” The people stood there thinking. The woman, the (future) bride, said to them: “Come on, let us continue our way to him. If we find that the words of this person are true, I will go back to my family; if we find that they are lies, well that is just what we wish them to be!” She said to them also: “Say: ‘I take refuge in God, away from Satan’ 29” They said this and immediately this man disappeared before them. They went further until they reached Sidi Hmad u Musa. (They told him what had happened on the road and) he said to them: “This woman surpasses you all!” Sidi Hmad u Musa married this woman and brought forth his children. Among them Sidi Lahsen u Hmad of the Imeta’iyyn tribe. They told us: There are other (children as well). He sent them all to (various) villages, during his life-time. He sent each one to a different village. I know this story until here. We left them in Castle Troubles and we went to Castle Peace 30!

3d. Lqis’t n Sidi Ḥmad u Musa d Sidi Mḥnd u Izqqub d urqqaṣ nnsn. 31

Sidi Ḥmad u Musa, ar ttin, ikkattinn iga amddakk“l n Sidi Mḥnd u Izqqub; ar bdda tnṣṣarafn gratsn s lmṣṣarafa igguṭn. Ar yan wass yzn Sidi Ḥmad u Musa yan urqqaṣ s dar Sidi Mḥnd u Izqqub, inna ys i urqqaṣ: “Zayd s dar Sidi Mḥnd u Izqqub, ak d Ḯf kra n iṣnaṣ.” Taẓzwalt, Ḭl y Ḥlla Sidi Ḥmad u Musa, tmgalal d ẓẓawiṭ n Sidi Mḥnd u Izqqub ugg“ar n kkuṭ wussan n twda. Yaṣk d urgaz Ḭli s dar Sidi Mḥnd u Izqqub. Llḥy t id ikm ỉṣmṛḥba srs. Inna yas: “Ma ihwili Ḯaṭṭ?” Inna yas urqqaṣ: “Inna yak Sidi Ḥmad u Musa, Ḯzn as d kra n iṣnaṣ, ira ṭn.” Ḯf as d Sidi Mḥnd u Izqqub i urqqaṣ simmuṣ iṣnaṣ. Yawi ṭn Ḭd urgaz Ḭli Ḭgan urqqaṣ ar aṣaras, ḩḥdū yan giṣn, Ḯf kkuṭ i Sidi Ḥmad u Musa. Isawł d

29. A wellknown line from the Koran, Sura: 114: 1.
30. A common formulaic final phrase of a story.
They say that Sidi Hmad u Musa once was a friend of Sidi Mhand u Yaqub; they always kept a friendly relationship. One day Sidi Hmad u Musa sent a messenger to Sidi Mhand u Yaqub saying: “Go to Sidi Mhand u Yaqub, (tell him) that he must give you a number of burnouses.” Tazer-walt, where Sidi Hmad u Musa lived, was at a distance of more than four days by foot (lit.: march) from the zawiya of Sidi Mhand u Yaqub. The messenger went off to Sidi Mhand u Yaqub. When he arrived, he was warmly welcomed. (Sidi Mhand u Yaqub) said to him: “What is on your mind (i.e. what can I do for you?)” The messenger said to him: “Sidi Hmad u Musa asks you to send some burnouses to him, he needs them.” Sidi Mhand u Yaqub gave five burnouses to the messenger. The messenger took them with him on the road, (but) he hid one of them and gave (only) four to Sidi Hmad u Musa. Sidi Hmad u Musa spoke to the messenger saying: “How many burnouses did he give you?” The messenger answered: “He gave me four!” Sidi Hmad u Musa repeated his question and the messenger answered in the same way. Sidi Hmad u Musa stood up and said to the messenger: “Wait for me until I have finished my ritual ablutions.” The messenger waited until Sidi Hmad u Musa had finished the ablutions. Sidi Hmad u Musa asked him the same question again and again the messenger gave the same answer. Then Sidi Hmad u Musa cried: “Hello Sidi Mhand u Yaqub!” (Sidi Mhand u Yaqub answered him from far away) saying: “Yes!” (Sidi Hmad u Musa) said to him: “How many burnouses did you give to the messenger?” (Sidi Mhand u Yaqub) said to him: “I gave him five!” When the messenger heard what they said (to each other) he said to Sidi Hmad u Musa: “If you are (capable of doing things) like this, why

32. Sidi Mhand u Yaqub is a saint, buried at Tasaft in the Goundafa region, south of Marrakesh; on this saint, see Justinard 1933: 106-108. For this story, see also Justinard 1933: 22-23.
did you bother me (and order me to make such) a difficult journey! Stretch out your hand to him and he will give whatever you want and you can leave me in peace!” The messenger threw the hidden burnous to him. The story ends here.

3e. Sidi Hmad u Musa in the cave of the man-eater. 33


Lliγ yujad at t išš, yasi d yat tmurt, ig tt mn γ lszfyt ayllıγ inwa, isntl as i tīt lli išttaf, innas tt γ tišt. Ikkš tīt nns, ur sul isfaw, inna as : “Waxxa! Ha k"nīn γ ug"nn n ifri, ha yyi γ ini. Ar šbah njmea!”

Šbah γṛsln i izmir, ġsin abḍan nns, ġsin sin. Yan śšan t, yan fln t. Kšmn gr wulll. Ffγnt ibahim. Ar ntnt ifḥasab ugražam. Wa nna yunzn s ufns nns, ġdi t bṛẓa, ayllıγ akkγt" ffγnt. Ffγn gr wulll, iffγ Sidi Ḥmad u Musa d umḍak"l nns.

Kksn ibdānn, utn t dis, mnan as : “Ifkad a iskr yan ingbi, iγ tars insa.” Rwnn, fln t. ġinna γ t inn flγt d wrrγt d nkkin!

3e. Sidi Hmad u Musa in the cave of the man-eater.

Two people, Sidi Hmad u Musa and his friend, roamed around in the world. They then arrived at the end of the world; they hung their knapsack, contai-


34. Gugun “among you” is a variant of gitun, gigun.
ning their provisions on a star. The star then disappeared with (their knap-
sack). The two men started to quarrel. Then someone (appeared who) said to
them: “What is wrong with you?” They said to him: “We lost a knapsack with
our provisions!” The man said to them: “Don’t argue about that! The
knapsack will come back to this place. Sleep here and tomorrow morning
you will have it back!” They spent the night there and the next morning it came
back; they got their knapsack again, nothing was missing.

They went on and wanted to spend the night with (a person who turned out
to be) an ogre, a man-eater. They asked him hospitality and the ogre said to
them: “Welcome!” He made them enter the cave where he lived with his
enormous herd. He lit a fire for them and said: “What do you want to eat?”
They said to him: “Whatever you want to give us!” He then said to them: “Let
me give you some meat, then you must give me some other meat!” The men
looked at one another and said: “Where would we find (other meat)?” They
discussed the matter and then said: “Let us eat first, then God will bring us an
answer to your question!”

When they had eaten, the ogre said to them: “Have you eaten?” They said
to him: “Yes!” He then said to them: “As for me, I have not yet eaten.” He
then said to them: “Give me one of you to eat!” They said to him: “All right!
Let us draw lots who of us it will be.” They drew lots and it was Sidi Hmad u
Musa who was to be eaten by the ogre. His friend said to him: “Oh no! He
must eat me!” Sidi Hmad u Musa said to him: “Oh no! I will be the one who is
eaten by the ogre!”

When the ogre prepared himself to eat him, (Sidi Hmad u Musa) took an
iron rod, put it into the fire until it was hot and then stabbed it into the (one
and only) eye that the ogre had and stirred (the rod) in his eye. The ogre took
out the eye (from pain) and could no longer see. He said to them: “All right!
You two are inside the cave and I am here at the entrance. We will meet
tomorrow morning!”

In the morning (Sidi Hmad u Musa and his friend) slaughtered a sheep and
put its hide over both of them. They ate one sheep and they left the other one.
(Having covered themselves with hides) they went among the sheep. The sheep
were about to go out. Sitting at the entrance of the cave, the ogre counted
them. He took all of them in his hands and then pushed them out of the cave,
until all the sheep had gone out. Sidi Hmad u Musa and his friend had gone out
also, (hidden) among the sheep.

Outside, in the open, they took their sheepskins off and hit the ogre with
them, saying: “This is what a guest does, after he has spent the night with (a
hateful host)!” They fled and left the ogre behind. I left him there and I came
back here.\footnote{The last phrase is a formulaic end of a story.}
Sidi Hmad u Musa had formed a troupe and became an itinerant acrobat. Once he had come to a place where (he and his friends) met an old lady carrying a basket full of figs. She said to them: “Please my children, who will bring this big basket uphill for me?” They said to her: “Look, Sidi

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Hmad u Musa, he will do that for you!” Well, Sidi Hmad u Musa used to be very naughty in those days. When he had come to her, she said to him: “Please, young man, bring this basket uphill for me!” He said to her: “All right!” He took it, placed it on his head and walked uphill with it. When he had escorted her home, he put (the basket) down for her. The old lady said to him: “Go now my son, may God reward you so that you may reward all Muslims!”

Sidi Hmad u Musa went off to a place where he started to pray and live a pious life. One day he passed a man, he saw him busy ploughing. He said to him: “May God help you!” The mother of this man had just brought something to eat. He invited Sidi Hmad u Musa saying: “Come on, let us have lunch!” (Sidi Hmad u Musa) sat down. When they had finished, he said to (Sidi Hmad u Musa): “Let us pray one fatiha for our parents.”

(After his lunch with this man) Sidi Hmad u Musa stood up and went to the place where he used to pray. He said to his companions: “I sit here in this world and have not made any children. Who will ask divine mercy over me when I am dead?”

He went off and decided to get married. He sent people out to bring him a woman. He said to those he sent away: “Watch out, there are robbers on the road!” They said to him: “All right!” They then found (lit.: brought) him a woman. While they were on the road, they met a person who said to them: “Where are you taking this lady?” They said to him: “We are taking her to Sidi Hmad u Musa!” He said to them: “The poor fellow has died! We prayed for him a few moments ago!” The men stood there shocked. They said to him: “We will take the woman back!” Then the woman spoke saying: “Go on! And curse Satan!” (When they had cursed him) Satan went off, because the creature they had met, was Satan himself. They went on. The woman said to them: “If we see that Sidi Hmad u Musa has died, I will go back to where I come from; if he is not dead, well that is exactly what we hope for.”

They arrived. Sidi Hmad u Musa met them and said to them: “By God, O men, the woman is better than you!” They said to him: “In what respect is she better than us?” (Sidi Hmad u Musa) said to them: “I told you: ‘Beware, there are robbers on the road!’ is that not so?” They said to him: “We saw only one person who met us. He said to us: ‘Where are you taking this woman?’ We said to him: ‘We want (to take) her to Sidi Hmad u Musa!’ He then said to us: ‘Look, (Sidi Hmad u Musa) has died!’ Then the woman said: ‘Curse Satan!’ When she had said: ‘I take refuge in God!’ the man disappeared!” Sidi Hmad u Musa said to them: “Look, I gave you advice precisely about this!”

37. The opening sura of the Koran.
3g. Sidi Hmad u Musa and the snake.

One day Sidi Hmad u Musa passed by a place where a well was situated as big as a river. Near to it was a plot of land, flat like a threshing floor. He went to pray there. When he had finished his prayer, he heard someone say: “Go away from me, you annoy me!” The creature that had spoken was a very big snake and apparently Sidi Hmad u Musa was sitting right on top of its back. Sidi Hmad u Musa asked: “What is wrong with you? You are annoyed at what?” It said to Sidi Hmad u Musa: “God told me that I will go to hell. I am so distressed that I have already lost one eye because of the many tears that I have wept!” Sidi Hmad u Musa said to the beast: “You must not weep, God is compassionate!” The snake stopped crying.

Sidi Hmad u Musa went back to the region where he had seen the big source and many people. But now he saw that this region was empty and that the well had dried up. He went to look for the reasons of all this. Then the angel Gabriel appeared to him and said: “You are the reason of all this! The tears of the snake made the well flow!” Then Sidi Hmad u Musa said to the snake: “I have found in a book that the one who must go to hell must weep all his tears out!” The snake started to weep again and the water of the well started to flow again.

38. A Tashelhijt Berber text from the Fonds Roux at Aix-en-Provence, see Peyron & Stroomer 2003: 47, item 46.3.1. For the story of the snake, see also Justinard 1933: 21.
3h. A poem on Sidi Hmad u Musa. 39

1 Ida bismillah u rýáhman, ak km d awiγ,
2 a laqışt n yan lxlq ma s ikka ddunit.
3 Sidi Ḥmad u Musa, ur akk\textsuperscript{w} ili zzawit,
4 ula lan timzgida, rrbazt kad d imun,
5 ur igi bla ahyyad, rrbazt kad d imun.
6 I nna γ nn tlla yat tmγra, yasi d allun,
7 I nna γ nn tlla yat tarragt, yasi nn aburi.
8 I nna γ insa, i nna γ ikla, i nna γ iγuḥ.
9 γ as lli ira Ṭbbi at tn issrbḥ,
10 smdin as luliyt imqqur ḷ d waškkaz mnsnt.
11 Ha mnit flas lšašra wa lli d imunn.
12 “A wiwi, lḥurma nmun, all yyi nn aftyal ar tamgrčt ann!”
13 Sawln kullu s lkibr, ur iri yan
14 ay yasi aftyal ula at tn slín ibrdan msn.
15 \textit{Γγr} i Ḥmad u Musa. Inna ukan: “Nzam!”
16 Ta lli ittyaqɔm s Ṭbbi mns a γ ššrjant\textsuperscript{40}.
17 Ha mnit flas lqɔtub lli biddn srɔs.
18 Inna yas: “A wiwi, lḥurma nmun ad yyi nn
19 tasım aftyal ann, an nγl f tamgrčt ann.”
20 Inna: “Bismillah!” Igr s tilluna zγ ufus.
21 Yals ašdād i ixf ayliγ d usin.
22 Itrm as umṭṭa n ikwɔzarn tudnt mns.
23 Ha aftyal lli iyli ar f tamgrčt ann.
24 Inna yas: “A xuya, hann Ṭbbi idmm ak.”
25 Igr titt s ufllā, isfaw akkw ɪgnwan.

39. See Justinard 1925: 237-238. Justinard’s informant was: Boujema’ Umzil (the black-smith) from the Goundafa tribe.
40. Justinard’s transcription: \textit{cherjaount} must be interpreted as ššrjant “they (f. plur.) derive (poetic for: she derives) hope from...” According my to informant the pronunciation ššra\textit{rown} instead of ššra\textit{nt} is possible poetic usage.
26 Isfaw akk w lzs ul kra gis iggiwn.
27 Sidi Ḥmad u Musa, ṭzm d i tagt nkn,
28 ad dis utγ anwwaš, ilha gigi d lzar
29 ig iyit umγar nγ lqayd nγ ur igi yat.

3h. A poem on Sidi Ḥmad u Musa.

In a poem published by Justinard one again finds some motifs seen in the preceding fragments:
1 In the name of God, I will tell you
2 a story of a man (whose name) went over the world.
3 Sidi Ḥmad u Musa did not have a zawiya,
4 nor did he possess a mosque, he simply joined a troupe.
5 He was nothing but an acrobat, he simply joined a troupe.
6 Wherever there was a wedding, he brought along his tambourine.
7 Wherever there was a big group of visitors at a wedding, he brought along a rifle.
8 Wherever he spent the night, wherever he spent the day, wherever he went.
9 On the day God wanted to bestow favours on him,
10 He confronted him with a great woman saint who carried her stick.
11 The troupe (of acrobats) that had joined Sidi Ḥmad u Musa approached her.
12 (The old lady said:) “O sons, have pity on me and take this big basket of figs up the hill for me!”
13 They all talked proudly, no one wanted
14 to carry the big basket for her nor for (the sticky basket) to touch their clothes.
15 She then called Sidi Ḥmad u Musa. He said: “Yes!”
16 She who believes in God, may surely expect hope from Him.
17 He went to her and there the “Pole” 41 stood in front of her.
18 She said to him: “My son, please,
19 carry this big basket for me and let us climb that slope.”

41. Lqutb (here: lqutub) with the meaning “the central pole of a tent” has become an important notion in islamic mysticism, indicating the sheikh, the mystical leader.
20 He said: “In the name of God!” and he threw the tambourine from his hands.

21 He rolled a piece of cloth around his head on which he carried (the basket).

22 The juice of ripe figs dripped down on his face.

23 He carried the basket uphill.

24 She then said to him: “O brother, a reward is guaranteed for you.”

25 He looked up: he could see the Heaven,

26 he could see the divine throne and Someone who was sitting on it.

27 Sidi Hmad u Musa, release your pledge,

28 so that I may use to hit the jealous person who spreads scandal about me,

29 whether he be a chief or a caid or nothing at all.

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