

## The Man in Black: Ibrahima Fall



The Trusted One Ibrahima Fall was born around 1855 in a northern village, Ndiaby Fall, Cayor. His original tyeddo (animistic) name was Yapsa Khanth Fall. Rasul Allah Ahmadou Bàmba Mbàkke gave him later the name Ibrahima Fall. Ibrahima Fall was a son of Amadou Rokhaya Fall and Seynabou Ndiaye. At an early age, Ibrahima Fall learned the Qur'an in a neighboring village, Ndiaré. Fall achieved major Arabic sciences such as theology, fiqh, tafsir, grammar and rhetoric. Savishinsky (1994) tells us that Ibrahima Fall had "reputation for ferocity and extraordinary strength".

Serigne Bassirou (1995) narrates the famous speech that Ibrahima Fall and Rasul Allah Ahmadou Bamba exchanged:

Master Ibrahima Fall: "If I found only your gravestone, be aware that the force of my intention would satisfy my objective"

Rasul Allah Ahmadou Bamba: "If I found only the stars and the sky that Muhammad watched at, I'm sure that I could attain my

objective with my strong love of the prophet. Know that from this life, I'll neither protect you from sun nor provide you material goods. I accept you if you follow God recommendations". In this way, the contract started between The Trusted One Ibrahima Fall and Rasul Allah Ahmadou Bàmba Mbàkke. The Trusted One Ibrahima Fall became his 40th disciple. From this moment, The Trusted One Ibrahima Fall followed the Ndiguél "orders" of the Rasul Allah until passing on to the higher life. I Imamaa Bilal Sabir, with the name Allah state that I "was taken in a dream to a place in heaven that seemed to be a replica of America with the east coast visible, then the ocean which appeared as a large black shiny body of water. I was standing about where Ohio appears on the US map, I could see people lined up from Florida up the east coast. I could see across the ocean a light flickering at the top of a tower, and then I thought to myself why I am here? Immediately a voice said," If you are chosen you will go across".

At that moment there appeared a man dressed in a black hooded outfit; he appeared to have walked out of heaven. As the man in black passed each person lined up all along the east coast they would fall into the ocean. I felt sort of fearful and apprehensive about the man in black as he began to approach me. When the man in black reached me he turned and faced me and smiled at me, I was selected to go across. What I did not know was that I was to receive the Blessings from Allah while in Senegal. My wife and I went on vacation to Senegal for thirty days in January 1996, it was during the ride from the Airport to our hotel that we both found out, quite surprised who the man in white is, and who the man in black is.

The Trusted One Ibrahima Fall was a faithful follower, and completely devoted to Rasul Allah Ahmadou Bamba. Master Ibrahima Fall instituted five rules of deference to the Rasul Allah Ahmadou Bamba:

- Never stand at the same level of Rasul Allah Ahmadou Bàmba Mbàkke
- Never greet the Rasul Allah with your hat on your head
- Never walk in front of him
- Always do the "sudiot" (kiss his hands) with the Rasul Allah
- Always lower your voice in front of him

The Trusted One Ibrahima Fall himself supervised these rules. In appearance, Master Ibrahima Fall had matted locks; he carried a black cudgel especially for making people respect these rules. Master Ibrahim Fall established the Baye Fall movement. In 1927, at the passing of Rasul Allah Ahmadou Bamba Mbàkke, Master Ibrahima Fall performed obeisance to the son, Serigne Moustapha Mbacké. Master Ibrahima Fall passed on to the higher life on 9 June 1930 after helping the succession of Rasul Allah Ahmadou Bamba. His burial place is in Touba.

### **The Great Masjid at Touba**



#### **References:**

1. Mourides Celebrate 19 Years in North America By Ayesha Attah. The African Magazine. (n.d.) Retrieved 2007-11-13.
2. Savishinsky, J. N. (1994) The Baye Fall of Senegambia: Muslim Rastas in the Promised Land? Africa: Journal International African Institute, 64, 211-219
3. Les origines de Cheikh Ibra Fall (2000, December). Touba', Bimestriel Islamique d'Informations Générales. Retrieved May 25, 2007 from <http://www.metissacana.sn/sites/touba/fall.html>
4. Ngom, F.(2002) Linguistic Resistance in the Murid speech community. Retrieved June 14, 2007 from <http://www.multilingual-matters.net/jmmd/023/0214/jmmd0230214.pdf>