

Nomad 1

Συντάχθηκε απο τον/την Χρήστος Μπούμπουλης (Christos Boumpoulis)

Κυριακή, 23 Νοέμβριος 2014 06:28 - Τελευταία Ενημέρωση Κυριακή, 23 Νοέμβριος 2014 07:01

Tuareg Dance - Timbuktu Mali

{youtube}T9qB68lnndE{/youtube}



MOUSSA AG ASSARID: I don't know my age. I was born in the Sahara desert, with no papers! I was born in a nomadic camp of Touaregs, between Timbuktu and Gao, in the north of Mali. I have been a shepherd of camels, goats, sheep and cows for my father. Today I study Management in the University of Montpellier. I am a bachelor. I serve as an advocate for the Touareg shepherds.

VICTOR-M. AMELA: What a beautiful headdress!

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MAA: It is a fine cotton fabric: it allows me to cover my face in the desert when the wind blows sand, and allows me to continue to see and to breathe through it.

VMA: It is a beautiful blue color.

MAA: We Touaregs have long been called "the blue men" because of this color. Interestingly the fabric loses the color and transfers some of the blue ink onto our skin.



VMA: How do you get this intense blue?

MAA: From a plant called indigo, mixed with other natural pigments. The blue, for the Touaregs, is the color of the world.

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VMA: Why?

MAA: It's the dominant color, of the sky, the roof of our home

VMA: Who are the Touareg?

MAA: Touareg means 'abandoned', because we are an old nomadic tribe of the desert. We are lonely and proud: masters of the desert, they call us. Our ethnic group is Amazigh (or Berber), and our alphabet is the tfinagh.

VMA: How many are there of you?

MAA: Approximately three million, the majority still are nomadic. But the population is decreasing. A wise man said it is necessary for a tribe to disappear to realize they existed. I am working to preserve this tribe.

VMA: What do they do for a living?

MAA: We shepherd camels, goats, sheep, cows and donkeys in an infinite kingdom of silence.

VMA: Is the desert really so silent?

MAA: If you are on your own in that silence you hear your heart beat. There is no better place to meet yourself.

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VMA: What memories do you have of your childhood in the desert?

MAA: I wake up with the sun. The goats of my father are there. They give us milk and meat, and we take them where there is water and grass. My great-grandfather did it, and my grandfather, and my father, and me. There was nothing else in the world than that, and I was very happy!

VMA: Really? It doesn't sound very exciting.

MAA: It is. At the age of seven you can go alone away from the compound, and for this you are taught the important things—to smell the air, to listen, to see, to orient with the sun and the stars...and to be guided by the camel if you get lost. He will take you where there is water.

VMA: This sounds like valuable knowledge, no doubt.

MAA: Everything is simple and profound there. There are very few things, and each one has enormous value.

VMA: So that world and this one are very different.

MAA: There, every little thing gives happiness. Every touch is valuable. We feel great joy just by touching each other, being together. There, nobody dreams of becoming, because everybody already is.

VMA: What shocked you most on your first trip to Europe?

MAA: I saw people running in the airport. In the desert you only run if a sandstorm is approaching! It scared me, of course.

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VMA: They were going after their baggage.

MAA: Yes, that was it. I also saw signs with naked women. Why this lack of respect for the woman? I wondered. Then at the hotel I saw the first faucet of my life: I saw the water run and wanted to cry.

VMA: Because of the waste, the abundance?

MAA: Every day of my life had been involved in seeking water. When I see the ornamental fountains here and there, I still feel an intense pain.

VMA: Why?

MAA: In the early 90s there was a big drought, animals died, and we became sick. I was about

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twelve years old and my mother died. She was everything to me! She used to tell me stories and taught me to tell stories. She taught me to be myself.

VMA: What happened to your family?

MAA: I persuaded my father to let me go to school. Every day I walked fifteen kilometers, until one teacher gave me a bed to sleep in and a woman gave me food when I walked by her house. I then understood what was happening; my mother was helping me.

VMA: Where did you get interested in school?

MAA: A few years before the Paris-Dakar motor rally came through the compound and a journalist dropped a book from her backpack. I picked it up and gave it to her. She gave it to me and talked to me about that book: "The Little Prince". I promised myself that I would be able to read it one day.

VMA: And you did.

MAA: Yes, and because of that I won a scholarship to study in France.

VMA: A Touareg going to college!

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No need for revenge.
Just sit back & wait.
Those who hurt you
will eventually screw up
themselves
& if you're lucky,
God will let you watch.

How do you feel about this? Do you think it's a good idea to wait for revenge? Or should you just move on?

