

The History of Muhammadu Foodee Kuli Silla

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In the name of God, the Beneficent, the Merciful.

May blessings and peace be upon The Best of God's Creatures, our master and guide, Muhammad.

(1) This is the history of the great religious leader Shaykhu Muhammadu Foodee Kuli Silla. He left the village of Bunduŋ-Banii Israayila [or Boundoung Bani Israel] in the Tambacounda region [in eastern Senegal] in 1749. He went down to the south. Sometimes he went to the right, sometimes to the left until he came to the region of Pakao [or Pakaawu]. Gradually, he continued his trip to the village of Daaru Salaam-Pakaawu [or Darou Salam Pakao]. The first family he visited was the Siise (or Cissé) family. He was hosted by the Foodeekunda family. He met his wife there. This [destiny] was what God had revealed to him when he was in Bunduŋ.

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[God had revealed to him] that he would meet a disabled woman who could not marry because of a wound she had, and that if he could heal her and marry her, God willing, she would give birth to a son who would shine among people like the moon and the star. This was irreversible. Things happened that way. The one who was his host in the village was called Shaykhu Umaru Siise who was also called Naani Foodee. During the first three days and for a week, he noticed that all the women went to the fields except one who did not go. He ended up asking his host about the latter. He replied: "She is my daughter. But she has a wound on her foot that prevents her from going to the field. This also prevents her from getting married." The religious leader then says: "Praise be to God, Lord of Creatures." He understood that she was the one God had predicted for him before he left Bunduŋ. This is why he praised God. Then he asked his host: "If you found someone who could heal her with the help of God until she was cured, would you give her to him in marriage?"

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(2) His host answered him: "If I find someone capable of healing her with the help of God, if he wishes, I will give her to him as a wife." Thus, the religious leader got ready and prepared a treatment for her. He prepared a first decoction, a second, a third and she was cured by the grace of God, the Lord of Creatures. Thereafter, he asked for her hand, which his host granted him, by the grace of God. This wife was called Jeenaba Kante Siise. Her mother's name was Kante Sawo. She is from Suunaa-Karantabaa [or Souna Karantaba]. Her father was named Foodee Shaykhu Umaru Siise from Daaruu Salaami-Pakaawu. This religious leader Shaykhu Muhammadu Foodee Kuli Silla, originally from Bundun, and his wife Jeenaba Kante Siise gave birth to this great lineage: Shaykhu Islaamu, Shaykhu Ibrahim, and Foodee Saamañ Silla whose nickname is Silla Baa [The Great Silla in Mandinka]. His father died in 1752 in Ñaani Bani in The Gambia. May God bestow His mercy onto him. After his father's death, Silla Baa was raised in Pakaawu-Wudukaar in the Silla family. He did his humanities studies in this family. There he continued his Quranic studies, the doctrine of Islamic monotheism [tawhīd], jurisprudence [fiqh], and exegesis of the Quran [tafsir]. Then, he went to Fuuta-Tuubaa [in Guinea Conakry] to Shaykhu Karamoho Baa Jaabi in 1834. He stayed there for two years seeking blessings and to deepen his knowledge. Afterwards,

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the religious leader Karambaa-Tuubaa blessed him and freed him¹ by the grace of God in 1836. He then returned to the Pakaawu region by the will of God. Then, he settled here in Pakaawu-Wudukaar for seven years, devoting his life to educating disciples in all areas, and promoting the implementation of Islamic laws among Muslims by the will of God. Then, he returned to Fuuta-Tuubaa after finishing the Manduwaar war. Thus, Fuuta-Tuubaa grew. The causes of the battle of

¹ This means that Karambaa-Tuubaa released Silla Baa from his tutelage, implying that Silla Baa had achieved mastery of the subjects and texts he was studying.

Manduwaar, first according to the elders, then according to the White person who was called Bertrand Bocandé, and Matñaas [possibly Mathias] who was also called Umaru, The Toubab [The White], who was from America, the battle of Manduwaar took place on March 28, 1843. The number of the combatants of the religious leader Silla Baa who came from Fuuta-Tuubaa was eight hundred (800). They had as their leader the one called Baakar Koy when they came to Pakaawu, in the name of God and for the honor of the Muslims. It was all the inhabitants of Pakaawu who supported Silla Baa in the battle of Manduwaar, more specifically those of Suunaa-Karantabaa, whose one and only motivation was the liberation of Muslims and the restoration of their dignity. God granted them victory. It was on March 28, 1843. Later, the religious leader Silla Baa died on July 5, 1843, by the will of God. Later, General Bakar Koy died on 11/04/1843. God knows best.