

Poem on Current Issues

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

This is a poem and an awareness that I myself, Bafodé Diaby, wrote about all aspects of life.

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

It is in honor of these names of Allah that we begin this work.

Praise be to Allah! Let us give glory to the Lord,

He who must always be magnified and whose privileges are infinite.

I pray to you, My Creator, that You lead us to righteousness,

towards the recommendations of Muhammad and his companions.

Having said that, I appeal to all Mandinka people

to dutifully accomplish a task, if we aspire to happiness!

This is an observation which is apparent to all of us Africans;

that we are behind the West.

I have found that white societies attach great importance to their languages.

They have always attached importance to their languages and cultures.

This is what appealed to me, as well as all those who feel the same as me.

Let us give thanks to God who made us aware of this problem.

If we unite, and if we have been writing in our language for a long time,

knowledge as well as ease of understanding will come forth.

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That's why I'm happy when the [Friday] prayer sermon,

is made in Mandinka, because we listen to it attentively!

It allows people to understand the meaning of words and the reasoning behind them,
and it allows for better mutual understanding and better worship of God.

This facilitates social cohesion when we are faced with difficulties.

By adopting the language and culture of others,
now the son no longer respects his father, and he turns his face away,
or he whispers: "Nobody wants to put up with this father's orders any longer!"

This leads to the son's curse and the father's regret for having a child who does not respect him!

Even if we pray for this son thousands of times, it will not deliver him!

The misdeeds of football [soccer], the sins of the ball (nightclub),
as well as the time that young people spend around the teapot¹ cannot be evaluated!

The rice imported from the whites, their bottles of oil, and their sugar
made us forget our fields and our hoes!

The day approaches when there will not be the possibility of having all that.

On that day we will not find anything to eat!

Like the disappointment of the one who waits for the eggs of the guinea fowl,
when the bushfire comes and destroys the nest, he will cry!

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Acquiring knowledge is not easy, all the more so in another's language!

The language and the culture of the person are inseparable.

Saying "This is my mother tongue" does not mean that you have mastered it perfectly,
even living thousands of years. It is impossible!

You cannot live a fulfilling life without having knowledge.

¹ Here it is the tea called *attaya* in Senegambia that young people spend hours preparing and drinking.

And that knowledge is not enough if one does not follow divine recommendations.
Writing in our language did not just begin. The scholars did not start today.
We can better understand religion and our concerns through our own language.
In the long run, The Creator will give His blessing to this process,
and we can rely on Him and cover ourselves with the loincloth of legitimacy.
Some may think that we waste our time in this task, or they may
think that we blaspheme by translating what has already been written in Arabic!
We tell them that we pray to God who created us,
to keep us from altering the truth or becoming lost!
Have you not noticed that even the prophets used the language of the people
to whom they were sent, as was the case with the Quran?
May God forgive and welcome the prophets to his paradise,
and all believers until the day of judgment.

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Why shouldn't we take care of our vegetable gardens and our fields
so that we can live on our own, of our own merit,
as well as doing research so that we can all find solutions,
to our living conditions and to the practice of religion?
May everyone regret his bad deeds and repent before God!
And let everyone beg for forgiveness night and day
so that it promotes social cohesion and determination in the country.
May everyone end up giving thanks to Him for peace and prosperity!
I pray that My Creator leads us to the right path,
towards the recommendations of Muhammad and his companions!