

### Letters in Mandinka 3

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Imam Raatib Al-haaji Karaŋ Laŋ Baro of Pakaawu Salikeñe and Al-haaji Sankuŋ Baro Bemme as well as Arafan Al-haaji Baro, the Village Chief Ahmadu Raaman, and Arafan Bunjaa Siisee have the pleasure of announcing to the Muslim community that the religious ceremony they organize every year will be celebrated during the month of the White people<sup>1</sup> on March 10 this year. It will take place on that date. Through this present letter, they have the pleasure of announcing the event to all the great scholars:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Al-haaji Siidiya Jaabi</li><li>● Al-haaji Soloo Baroo of Sinkeer</li><li>● Almaami Baa Jaane Daraame</li><li>● Alikaloo Baalandiŋ Daraame</li><li>● Arafan Baakar Demba Baabaadiŋ</li><li>● Al-haaji Kajaali Sooli of Suuna-Karantaba</li><li>● Baa Almaami Baroo and Barookundaa bee</li><li>● Al-haaji Keebaa Tuure and Al-haaji Mori Keebaa Tuure</li><li>● Al-haaji Muhammadu Siise of Tuurekundaa</li><li>● Arafan Laŋ Siise of Jaarumme</li><li>● Muhammadu Laamin Daraame of Jaarumme</li><li>● Karifa Samate of Jaarumme</li><li>● A-haaji Faabaa Seyidi of Bakadaaji</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Al-haaji Baa Maalaŋ Baa Suwaane</li><li>● Imaam Al-haaji Keebaa Kaliya of Seeju</li><li>● Imaam Raatib Al-haaji Abuubakar Daraame</li><li>● Imaam Raatib of Pakaawu-Jaareŋ and Al-haaji Kaliifa Daraame of Jaareŋ</li><li>● Imaam Baasaaf and Baalanko</li><li>● Imaam Daraame and Arafan Ahmadu Siise</li><li>● Kerewaan Imaam Raatib of Kerewaan</li><li>● Arafan Wandifaa Baroo Siise</li><li>● Al-haaji Basiiru Siise of Njama</li><li>● Al-haaji Sidi Daraame</li><li>● Al-haaji Seyiti Siise</li><li>● Al-haaji Muhammadu Daraame and his siblings</li></ul>
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<sup>1</sup> The month of March in the Gregorian calendar.

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

May God's blessing be upon our master Muhammad, the most trustworthy. That said, this is a poem composed in the local Mandinka language by God's protege, Al-haaji Siidiya Jaabi, resident of Tasliman, regarding tranquility and success. Here it is:

My dear friend, listen to the preacher when he speaks.

Do not ignore his words which are of great importance.

Each person must give thanks to his Creator and be devoted to him.

Don't question all the things that have been said about Him.

Ask for His mercy, and do not wait for

death to come or you may find all your chances lost!

Do not miss the five daily prayers and be punctual.

Make yourself learn how to pray and respect ablution rules.

Anyone who does not pray is a nonbeliever and nonbelief is a very bad thing.

The gates of heaven are only open to those who pray.

No good deed can substitute for the absence of prayer.

Prayer is the fundamental act in the practice of the Muslim religion.

No saint in the world can save someone who does not pray.

If you don't pray, don't believe that a lost person can save you.

Believe in saints and great figures who have done great things

and perform the obligatory prayers at the same time, this is what must be done!

You must have good behaviors in life,

because a good person is one who has good behaviors.

You must have good intentions and perform good deeds!

Don't be jealous because jealousy is very trying!

Do not steal; flee from adultery.

Adultery is a very bad thing. What a great sin!

Narcotics, alcohol and cannabis and anything resembling them

are not things that a virtuous person should use!

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Protect yourself from bad deeds that break up families,

and wives of relatives as well as husbands of relatives who have very strong ties.

Sow love in couples

as well as between neighbors and friends who are united.

Provide education to children from an early age. Be firm.

Send them to learn from scholars known for their wisdom.

Scholars have compassion for those entrusted to them,

and they impart important knowledge to them.

Make forgiveness your ax because conflicts are not good!

Promote peace everywhere in times of conflict in order to put out the fire.

Gossiping about an important person and cowardice, as well as

slander, save yourself from all this, especially in public.

To speak ill of a good person as well as to slander them,

these behaviors make people lose great virtues.

Wealth should not be a source of self-glorification, pride and boasting.

Drop all this because the most pretentious people have all disappeared!

Material goods will one day disappear. You can see it in our country!

The first ones to gain fortunes, all their fortune is gone today.

My dear, stop being too proud until you fall one day and regret your behavior!

Be humble in order to be admired by virtuous people.

Make the fear of God the sheet with which you cover yourself in this life!

Those who fear God are the ones who are saved.

Pray while respecting the rules of purification and respect the prayer times.

Fast and make the pilgrimage, if the conditions are met.

Have integrity in your material possessions and give obligatory alms [to the poor].

Giving alms is an obligation, so don't get tired of it.

Giving alms is obligatory for those who have the means to do so.

Alms can be money and clean clothes.

Count the number of your cows, sheep or goats, if it meets the criteria for

alms, give the required number to someone to distribute them [to the poor].

Agriculture is a source of material gain. Refusing to practice agriculture is a deprivation.

One only realizes the importance of farm work on the harvest day!

Find agricultural equipment, clear the brush and work the land

so that when you harvest tomorrow, you can have your own seeds.

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Find yourself a place to live because moving around a lot is stressful.

Those who know you and those who welcome you will grow tired of you.

Make divine worship your priority and do not tire of making invocations.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Here the author uses the word *wird* (litanies that Sufi disciples recite).

Perform supererogatory prayers at night.

Multiply the invocations and add prayers on

the Prophet to them, if you want to have assured rewards.

My dear, forgive the preacher who gave this sermon [if he made mistakes]

in the structure of the verses as well as in the letters he used.

End

Copied by the insignificant servant of His Creator, His poor servant,

Muusaa Samin, Quranic student

at the School of Tasliman

Gawusu Daraame [document owner]