

## Celebrating Cerno Aliiyu Buuba Ndiyaŋ<sup>1</sup>

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In the name of God, the Beneficent, the Merciful. Praise to God and to Him alone.

May His blessing and His peace be upon the Prophet. That said, these writings of Ibrahim son of Oumar are about the death of our spiritual master, our guide toward Our Creator, our Shaykh Aliiyu, son of Muhammad Oury of Labe. May the mercy of God, The Almighty, be upon him. And may he be pleased with him and shower us with his sciences and blessings, amen!

I give thanks to Allah, the Majestic Immortal King,

He who gives life and death whose powers are boundless!

I pray for the salvation of the Prophet and his family,

And his companions as well. I will never get tired of praying for them.

May the divine mercy be upon Cerno Aliiyu

Buuba Ndiyaŋ too, a great scholar, an endless source of knowledge,  
a wise elder whose blessing reassures those who are frightened,  
a healer of maladies who will stay in my heart!

Scholars of his kind no longer exist in our country!

He illuminated religion and relentlessly snuffed out innovations!<sup>2</sup>

He is the one who gave us the wurd of the Shaykh<sup>3</sup> and guided us

in the right path. We will not get lost!

He spread his wings to cover us.

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<sup>1</sup> *Cerno Aliiyu Buuba Ndiyaŋ* or *Thierno Aliou Bhoubba Ndiyan* (1845-1927) studied with the scholars of Labe in Guinea before settling in a place called *Buuba Ndiyaŋ* (Pular: fresh water) in the area. He was a judge and the imam of the mosque of Labe.

<sup>2</sup> The author uses the concept of *bid'a* which means religious innovations that are contrary to Islam's prescriptions.

<sup>3</sup> It is about the special prayers of *Shaykh Ahmad al-Tijānī* (1735–1815), founder of the Tijāniyya.

Nothing harmful can touch us!

He has taught us and prayed for us to Our Creator

salvation. O, I will always mourn this man!

One Monday came with sad news for our generation!

The death of Cerno Aliyu will never be in the past [for us]!

O owner of the great pavilion, of the majestic throne, and of all the heavens,

Owner of the earth, You who created all that exists there which I cannot name,

You are the Omnipotent, the Omniscient,

The Most merciful, forgive him without condition

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Widen his tomb as wide as the earth and the sky!

Grant him access to the rivers of boundless lights!

O God, spare him the darkness and punishments of the tomb!

Make him pronounce the word of truth when he is interrogated!<sup>4</sup>

When the interrogators arrive, may they tell him:

“Welcome, dear beloved of God, to the infinite blessings!

God has forgiven you your sins!

You are purified from the stain of sin! You will never be dirty!

Do not worry about anything, for you have obtained salvation before dying!

Do not be afraid since you are going to the land of eternal bliss”!

O God, grant him access under the umbrella of the most privileged of Your creation [Muhammad],

the one through whom the truth was sent, Your beloved, the Day of Resurrection!

O my creator, grant him his account

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<sup>4</sup> The author refers to *Nakir* and *Munkar*, the two angels responsible for interrogating the dead in their tombs.

in his right hand,<sup>5</sup> and may he read it easily!

O My Creator make his last judgment easy and soft!

Shroud him with an eternal veil that you will never lift to dishonor him!

When the time comes to weigh his acts, have mercy on him

by highlighting the good he did, his indelible acts!

When the time arrives to cross the bridge of hell, let him quickly cross this razor blade<sup>6</sup>

like the wind or as fast as wind without sound!

O God grant him Your blessings to which

He was submitted to implore You, considerable blessings!

Multiply these blessings, multiply them endlessly

for that will not diminish Your wealth which remains forever intact!

O God, let him drink from the well of Prophet Ahmadu [Muhammad]!

Let him reside in the highest paradise, an indestructible land!

By the sacredness of Your sacred book [the Quran] and through whom this book was revealed,

and by the sacredness of Your power, O You the Immortal,

shower me with his<sup>7</sup> blessings, which many people want to get.

May I be the one who does not look for it [for I would have gotten it already]!

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O God, forgive me and forgive my parents,

my family and children as well, O You who never gets angry!<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> See Quran 84:7-9: "Whoever is given his account in his right hand will receive an easy reckoning and will return to his folk in joy".

<sup>6</sup> According to Ibn Mas'ūd, the bridge over hell (*al-ṣ irāṭ* in Arabic) is like a razor blade.

<sup>7</sup> It's about the blessings of *Cerno Aliiyu **Buuba** a Ndiyañ*.

<sup>8</sup> The author suggests that Allah has no feeling of anger.

Also forgive those who taught me and those who taught them,

and those who taught the latter, and so on until the forever privileged one!<sup>9</sup>

O God, reunite us with Cerno [Aliiyu ʼBuuba Ndiyaŋ] in the same group

under the great crown of the famous privileged one<sup>10</sup> who will never lose his reputation!

This is the conclusion of what I wrote about myself and Cerno

Aliiyu ʼBuuba Ndiyaŋ, who I will love forever!

O God, grant Your blessing to the privileged of all mankind [Muhammad],

and his companions, a boundless blessing!

May the blessing and peace of God be upon the Prophet Muhammad.

Reported

By Shaykh Salmaan Bari.

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<sup>9</sup> This refers to the Prophet Muhammad

<sup>10</sup> This also refers to the Prophet Muhammad.