

Lesson Four: Moroccan Sayings

Objectives:

To apply newly acquired knowledge of the Saharan trade to interpret a variety of Moroccan sayings. What do each of these examples illustrate about the everyday lives of those who lived along the Saharan trade routes?

Procedure:

Note to the teacher: the following sayings have been quoted from the book, *Arts and Crafts of Morocco*.

- A. "We shall show them our signs on the horizons and in themselves
Till it is clear to them that it is the truth."

Koran, Suna, 41:53

- B. "He who enters Fez with a rug, leaves with a moneybag."

Moroccan saying

- C. "Grandmother, grandmother, since he departed I have been
Thinking of him only and seeing him everywhere...he gave me a
Fine silver fibula. And whenever I set my *haik* upon my shoulders,
When I fasten its flap upon my bosom, when I take it off at night
To sleep, it's not the fibula I see, but him."

A song from Tassaout

Note: a fibula is a clasp resembling a safety pin used by the ancient Greeks and Romans.

- D. "A maallem is a poet who does not write on demand. He uses but the humblest materials, for what is required is imagination, and imagination knows no enemy but time."

Maallem saying

- E. "O water-bearer, from where, from where
Do you carry your earthenware?
O let your glances stray
This way, this way."

Moroccan love song