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