

Interview:

Sadio Diallo

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Tags:

Senegal, Village: Ngano, Town: Matam, Equality and Freedom, tradipratician, dance, family, Slave: social status, Slave: forced labor, inter-caste marriage, Endam Bilaali

Summary:

Sadio Diallo's father is from Tequigne, though he was captured at age 15 and taken to Dabia, he returned soon after his master (Abdoul Bocar Kane) died in a war. Sadio contextualizes that the Moors would kidnap Soninke Wolof, and Serer people to sell them as slaves in Mauritania. He described the ill-treatment of slaves in terms of insufficient clothes and food.

- On the treatment of people today, Sadio states that today nobody dares to tell his children that they are slaves, especially because they do not work as slaves.
- On his family, Sadio says that when his father left Abdoul Bocar Kane, he became a dance artist and tradipratician (traditional practitioner); however, Sadio does not know any of the songs.
- On freedom, Sadio says that it is when you are no longer under the sway of a master it is also the act of not harming others.
- On what the future might look like, Sadio responds "I don't want to be free because I'm someone's subject. The second thing is that I'm free and I don't want anyone to harm me. Also, I don't harm anyone. I don't want to steal from anyone, I just mind my own business. If I'm hungry it's only God's will; if I'm not hungry it's also God's will."
- On inter-caste marriage, Sadio believes in the equality of all people and would allow his children to engage in an inter-caste relationship/marriage.
- On Endam Bilaali, Sadio states that he is not part of the association because he does not consider himself to be a slave even if he is a descendant of slaves.

Main Themes:

Reference to the afterlives or impacts of slavery and colonialism / **Social status, social classes, social demarcations, and ethnic groups**: Sadio discusses the kidnapping of people born into the social status of slaves and later they were sold in Mauritania.

Thoughts on Freedom or Descriptions of Freedom-Making Practice (see also resistance, liberty, resilience): Sadio talks about what freedom means to him and it is, essentially, when you are not under the sway of a master and you can mind your own business without hurting others.

Thoughts on the future, an alternative world, what a free life could look like, etc.: Sadio's response to what the future might bring is simply described by minding his business and living under God's will.

Quotes From Interview:

- [00:00:47 ~ 00:02:47] Sadio discusses the kidnapping of people born into the social status of slaves and later they were sold in Mauritania.
 - The difficulties we've had to face lie in our parents being kidnapped and brought in. It was the fact that our parents were captured and brought over that led to the problem of servitude. The Moors used to come to Senegal and capture people to take them to Mauritania. When they needed to cross the river, they went to see the village chief. He asked them to pay for the crossing. After haggling, they leave some of their captives behind in exchange for the right to cross. The others they leave with the village chief stay there and become his slaves, and the others cross the shore and become Moors, and that's how people become slaves. And that's how my father stayed in this area while other fathers and mothers were taken to unknown places and forced to work in difficult conditions. My father was taken to Dabia, while my mother's father and mother were captured here in Senegal. My father was taken to Abdoul Bocar Kane's house in Dabia, the others were taken elsewhere and dispersed. Abdoul Bocar Kane died during the war, since he was the one who took my father, and now that he's dead, shouldn't he leave? That's how my father became involved in the search for his parents. God - you have to listen carefully to what I'm telling you - ensured that he never returned to Mali. God wanted him to stay here, and he did, to create a large family and remain here until his death. One thing I know for sure is that my father comes from a village in Mali called Téquigne. We belong to the Peulhe community, do you follow me? That's it.

- [00:08:32 ~ 00:08:49] Sadio talks about what freedom means to him and it is, essentially, when you are not under the sway of a master and you can mind your own business without hurting others.
 - Being free..., since you're no longer under the sway of your master, you have to mind your own business. That's what I know about being free. You mustn't harm anyone. Even if you're offended, you have to forgive, otherwise you'll complain. That's what being free means to me. Now if that's not the case, you tell me.
- [00:10:42] Sadio's response to what the future might bring is simply described by minding his business and living under God's will.
 - I don't want to be free because I'm someone's subject. The second thing is that I'm free and I don't want anyone to harm me. Also, I don't harm anyone. I don't want to steal from anyone, I just mind my own business. If I'm hungry it's only God's will; if I'm not hungry it's also God's will.