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انفاق الميسور

في تاريخ بلاد التَّنْجُرُور

أمير المؤمنين

محمد بل بن الشيخ عثمان بن فوكي

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The Palace of the Sultan of Maiurno

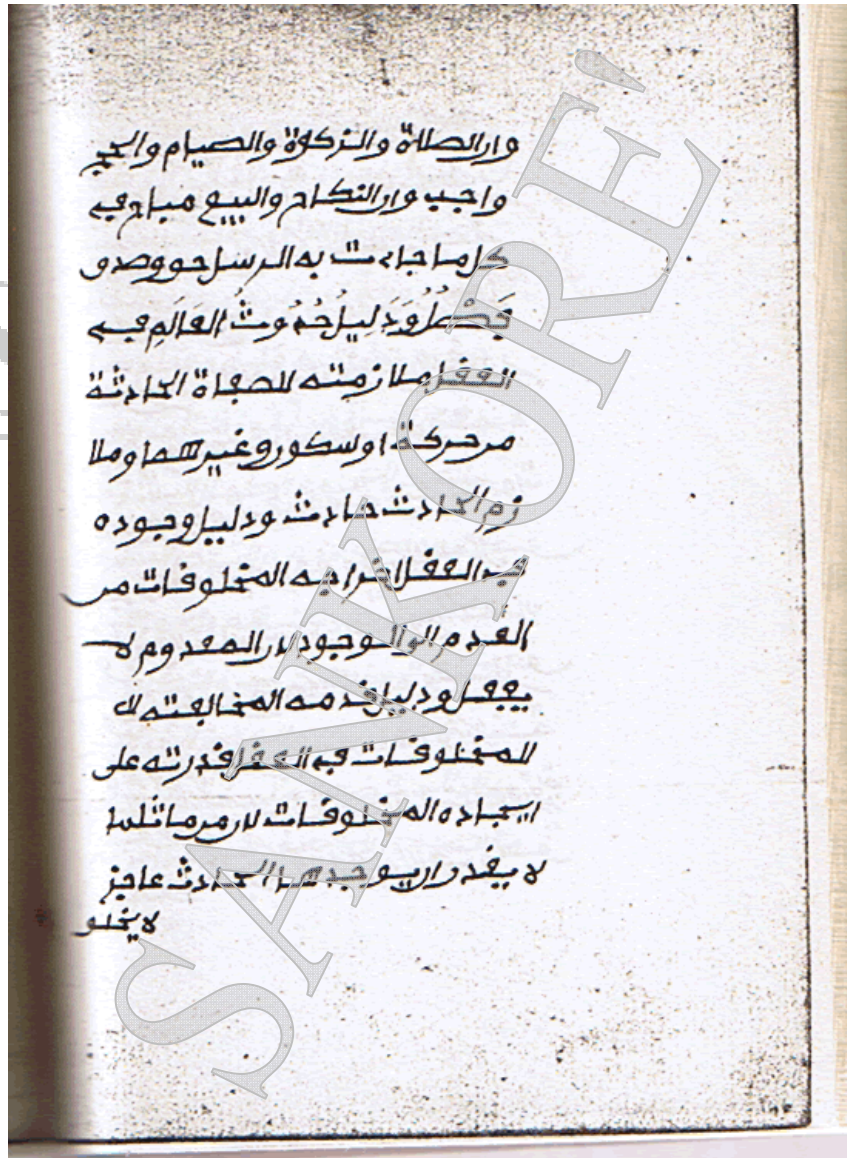
Maiurno, Sennar, Sudan

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A folio from the Infaq al-Maysuur fi Tarikh Bilad't-Takruur of Sultan Muhammad Bello ibn Shehu Uthman ibn Fuduye' from the archives of the Sankore' Institute of Islamic-African Studies International.

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A Word On the Translation

The Infaq 'l-Maysuur was one of three texts which my *Shaykh* Muhammad al-Amin ibn Adam handed to me to translate into English in 1985. I first began translating it in 1990 when I first arrived back in the US. Admittedly, I was thwarted by many factors from being able to complete this work. Now, with the 'sabbatical' afforded me through forced exile in the People's of Republic of China, I've been able to make formidable progress in this work, and have in conjunction with several Chinese intellectuals, initiated the translation of this text into Mandarin.

Although the Infaq'l-Maysuur contains some of the same historical data presented in the Tarikh as-Sudan and the Rawdat'l-Afkaar, I felt that it would be essential to place this text alongside the others so the scholars, activists, leaders and laymen can compare these works for themselves. Although, the entire text has been translated, those chapters which have been discussed in the Tarikh as-Sudan, I will not post on the www.siiasi.org in order not to be repetitive.

I've used several manuscripts as well as published copies of this text as the basis of the translation. The manuscripts were those copied from the archives of the Waziri Junayd History Bureau; the Center for Islamic Studies of the University of Shaykh Usman Danfodio, both in Sokoto, Nigeria as well as that obtain from Dr. Abdallah Hakim Quick in Cape Town, South Africa. The published texts that I used for the translation were: [1] the text published in Kano which *Shaykh* Muhammad al-Amin ibn Adam gave me; [2] the text published in Morocco by the Center for African Studies in Rabat, which I received from *Imam* Hamza Yusef Hanson, as a gift back in 2002.

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انْفَاقُ الْمَيْسُورِ
فِي تَارِيخِ بِلَادِ التَّكْرُورِ

Easy Expenditure

Regarding the History of the Lands of *Takruur*

Amir 'l-Mu'mineen, Sultan

Muhammad Bello ibn Shehu Uthman Dan Fduye'

Translated & Edited by

Shaykh Muhammad Shareef bin Farid

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In the name of Allah the Beneficent the Merciful, may Allah bless our master Muhammad, his family and Companions and give them much peace. Says: the needy one of the Independent Lord, **Muhammad Bello ibn Uthman ibn Fuduye'**¹, may Allah engulf them in His mercy - Amen.

All praises are due to Allah who created the *jinn*² and mankind to worship Him, and in order to be grateful for His blessings, omnipotence and benefits; for He is the Benefactor the Grateful. He alone out of His wisdom brought forth the seven heavens and spread out the earth in order to regulate all affairs. It is to Allah that all affairs return. He alone filled up the corners of the universe with days and time by means of the wonders of His wisdom. Glory be to Him in whose hands is the dominion and He alone has power over all things. He sent the Messengers, upon them be the blessings and peace of Allah, to mankind with Sacred Tablets and Illuminated Books in order to teach them the divine precepts of religion and in order to bring them out of darkness into the Light. He alone singled out our master and chief Muhammad, may Allah bless him and grant him peace with distinction and superiority that can never be counted or enumerated, who was denied by those who had denied him and those who traveled his paths were guided, among all the regions of the earth and the islands of the sea. May Allah bless him and grant him peace along with the first and foremost among the *Muhajiruun*, the *Ansaar*, all of the Companions³ and those who follow them in good deeds as long as the duration of life and time. To continue:

¹ He was *Amir al-Mu'mineen* Abu Ali Muhammad ibn *Shehu* Uthman ibn *Fuduye'* Muhammad ibn Uthman ibn Saalih ibn Harun ibn Muhammad Ghurtu ibn Jubba ibn Muhammad Sanbu ibn Maasiraan ibn Ayyub ibn Buuba Baba ibn Abu Bakr ibn **Musa Jakulli**. His mother was Hawwa bint Adam ibn Muhammad Agh. He was one of the leading supporters of his father *Shehu* Uthman and was appointed after him as the ruler of the Sokoto *Caliphate*. He was born in the town of Mornona in modern day Niger, on Wednesday, during the beginning of the month of *Dhu'l-Qa`ada* in the year 1195 *hijra* (1780) and died at the age of 58 on Thursday, the 27th of *Rajab* in the year 1253 *hijra* (1837) in his military fortress called Wurno. For a detailed biography of the author see our introduction to the *Risaalt Li'l-Amraad*.

² The *jinn* refers to the genus of creatures which are hidden from most of mankind thus the name *jinn*, which means according to the *Lisan al-'Arab*: "something hidden". It for this reason both the heart of man and his spirit is called *janaan*, which means the most subtle or hidden part of man; the heart being hidden within the breast and the spirit being hidden within the soul. An unborn child is also called *janeen* because it remains hidden within the womb of its mother. In the context of the author the term *jinn* refers to as Ibn Sayyid said: "The *jinn* are a species from the world so-called because they are hidden from sight and also because they conceal themselves from mankind." The etymological root in the *Qur'an* is taken from the three following verses: "He created mankind from mud like clay and He created the Jinn from a smokeless fire." [*ar-Rahman*: 14-15]; "And the Jinn We created prior from a toxic fire." [*al-Hijr*: 27]; "From among the Jinn and mankind altogether." [*as-Sajda*: 13]; Like mankind, the *jinn* are endowed with reason and free will, as a result they too can obey or disobey the commands of Allah ta`ala. Those who are obedient are considered *ifteet* who possess phenomenal power, while those who are disobedient are considered *shayateen* (devils) and are malevolent and harmful to mankind through evil suggestions and whispering.

³ The Companions of Muhammad, were every man, woman, child, *jinn* and spirit that saw, met and accepted Islam from him, even if only for a day. The number of the Companions were 124,000 when Muhammad, may Allah bless him and grant him peace died. The best of them as the *Qur'an* testifies were the *Muhajiruun* and the *Ansaar*. The *Muhajiruun* were those Companions who accepted Islam while Muhammad, may Allah bless him and grant him peace was in Mecca and then made the *hijra* with him to Medina. The *Ansaar* are those Companions from among the *Aws*, *Khasraj* and other Jewish tribes that accepted Islam in Medina and assisted Muhammad and the *Muhajiruun* with their lives and wealth. Allah ta`ala says: "The first and the foremost are the *Muhaajiruun* and *Ansaar* and those who follow them in spiritual excellence. Allah is pleased with them and they with Him." [*at-Tawba*: 100] "are the 124,000

Allah favored us in these times with the appearance of the *Imam*, the *Khalifa*, the Renewer of the *Deen* to mankind, the Reviver of the *Sunna* of Muhammad the Chosen One, may Allah bless him and grant him peace, the diffuser of knowledge and the remover of affliction - my father - **Uthman ibn Muhammad** - the godly scholar, the perpetual helper, the pole of the age, the proof of the time, the most erudite of this world, the one who penetrates the highest ranks, the well spring of gnosis and the shading tree of subtle sciences. The scholars drink from the seas of his sciences; the sagacious learn from the lamp of his illumination; the *awliyya* turn around the *kaaba* of his secret; the knowers of Allah stop at the chambers of his presence; the caravans strive towards his likeness, by his example are patterns molded, in his attributes are many annihilated and at his door are hopes fulfilled. May Allah prolong his life among us and make his ending excellent.

By means of his *baraka* the Lord blessed us with establishing the *jihad* in these lands, where He assisted us with His forces and backed us up with His Divine help - until we witnessed with our own eyes the supremacy of His omnipotence, the severity of His vengeance against His enemies and the depth of His help to His protected friends. We witnessed such amazing and astonishing miracles of His protected friends and purified ones, which would increase the believers in *imaan* and clinch for the disbelievers humility, defeat and loss. Because of this, I continued to contemplate the history of the excellent events which happened in these times, especially in relationship to what had occurred in these regions prior from astonishing and amazing episodes of the stories of the kingdoms and the scholars. I searched out and began chronicling the elaborations of the tales of the extraordinary personages of these regions, which are pleasant for minds and intellects and the narrations that gratify the hearing of those who would listen. I walked carefully under the leaves of these narratives realizing that no one before me had sauntered under its cool shade. I learned much from the light of these histories and fulfilled my desires in it, although I was obstructed by obligations, compressed time and heavy responsibilities. Then it occurred to me after much seeking Allah's direction to make endeavors towards the objective of recording this history so that Allah would benefit me by means of it and those among the Muslims who came across it. I ask Allah for His assistance in writing it, revising it and arranging it and I ask for His success in completing it. He is the best of helpers. I have named it:

Easy Expenditure

Regarding the History of the Lands of *Takruur*

Allah is the sole assistant and upon Him is our reliance. There is neither power nor might except with Allah the Exalted the Mighty.

