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Institute of Islamic - African Studies International

# **Jawaab as-Shaykh al-Khadeem Lil-Musta`mireen al-Faransiyyeen**

**The Answer of the Shaykh Khadeem**

**Ahmadu Bamba**

**to the French Imperialists Who Accused Him of Gathering Weapons in Preparation for Jihaad**

Translated by:

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In the name of Allah the Beneficent the Merciful

O troops who have made three in their error  
Of the One who has no offspring nor parent  
You have concluded about me saying that I am  
a slave of Allah and that I am one who makes *jihad*  
You suspect that we have guns and canons  
For all of that from you is just mere hatred and envy  
However, your words about me are true, for I am His slave.  
And I am the servant of the Slave of Allah the praised one.  
Your saying that I am a man of *jihad* is truthful  
For verily for the sake of Allah the majestic I am struggling  
For verily I struggle with **sciences** and with **fearful awareness**  
In this I am a slave and servant, the Guardian is my witness  
I am indeed a slave and a servant of His to the Prophet  
He is my forunner and the witnessing intercessor  
Blessing be upon him along with his family and companions  
with the peace of the Sustainer the One God  
Blessings which contains peace be upon him, He has protected me  
from the warring of Iblis against us, he is a recalcitrant demon.  
He has established me, glory be to Him with the Chosen one.  
Regarding what he brought and in this I am a firm witness.  
By him Allah has sufficed me against the people of the Book who are oppressive.  
For everything from them is done out of contention and pure envy.  
My **sword** which those who make three gods deceptively fabricate against me,  
Is His divine unity (*tawheed*) for He is Allah the Solitary.  
May they perish, those who make three in their error  
of the One who possesses no offspring nor parent.  
Curses to a people who make partners with Allah and  
whose penises are uncircumcised drowning in a sea of arrogance  
Be enobled by the Lord and construe them not by what  
They have earned here in this life, He is the Forbearing the Glorious  
Favors to he who, as a unifier, fears only Allah  
And covets what pleases Him, and wretched are the infidels  
And my **canons** and **guns** which the enemies accuse me of  
By which an intending pigheaded is driven from me  
It is the wise reminder (*Qur'an*) whose verses are made decisive  
By which demons who desire harm are driven away  
By which those who forsake me are caused to complain  
In this life and the next and He who causes it is the Lord the Glorious.  
By which I am redeemed from their plots altogether  
By which I am made to endure during the darkness of my nights  
I am enobled by it as a wise reminder and it is my argument  
My Lord educates me by it, He is the Generous the Glorious  
As for my **spear**, it is the Prophetic traditions (*ahaadeeth*) which  
Have been related from the best of watering places the one who obliterates  
By which I drive away heretical innovation which has been invented  
By which necessitates me to be a joyous worshipper

And by which deceptions are driven from me and made to vanquish  
 By which necessitates me to ascend the Eternal Ascension  
 I am enobled by the one who brought its expressive style  
 He is the best of those who struggle in Allah the best of worshippers  
 He is the best of those who intercede on behalf of the entire creation  
 On the Day of intense grief, he is the best of intercessors and leaders  
 He is the best of managers in all persuasions of nobility  
 By means of him enemy spies are driven from around me  
 Blessings be upon him along with his family and companions  
 From Him who is not made impotent by any ungrateful fugitive  
 And give him peace for by him I have been guided to the ways of the Exalted One  
 Until even our mother and father are raised up by means of my station  
 As for the branches (*furu`*), for they are my **arrows** (*sihaam*) which have been sharpened  
 They are the branches of the Prophetic traditions, for the branches are an outgrowth  
 By which I drive away the assaults of things which are dubious  
 From around me, because my arrows are incessant and persistent  
 As for that which acts as **my spies** (*jassasu*) gathering up secrets  
 For it is *sufism* by which I have been draped in the most illustrious serenity  
 By it our Lord recompensed the forebears with good and upon us  
 On the Day of Recompense, for He is the Thankful the Glorious  
 By it we were rewarded the sincere advice of those who clarify  
 What is in the Book and the *Sunna* and by that advantages became clear  
 By it the harm of the enemies have been negated from me and I do not desire  
 A substitute for it, for He is the Protector the Repeller of harm  
 He is the One who has been for me and defends me always  
 By means of *sufism* from those who hate and harbor rancor  
 By it I have been safeguarded with security in this life and the next  
 And by it what was deposited for me before from Him has been assigned to me  
 Therefore, if I have weapons for the enemies by which  
 They are made to fear, for my weapons are as they are and by them I struggle  
 By means of them the evils of those who make three gods are driven away from me  
 Although they challenge me, all that is from them is mere envy and jealousy  
 I have become a unifier of the One who is to me a Sustainer  
 The One who does not possess an offspring nor parent  
 O Allah! O Beneficent! O Lord of humankind!  
 O He to whom belongs the totality! In You I have made a covenant.  
 Be generous to me above what they assume about me  
 And save me from that which has in it affliction and difficulty  
 Make me independent in this world and the next O Exalted!  
 O He for whom pours from me songs of praise!  
 O Best of riches! You have guided me by means of the Book  
 And by means of the *sunna* of the one who obliterates and is praised often  
 Testify for me with an eternal gratitude towards You along with contentment  
 And from You give me every sort of exquisite and precious trait  
 O Sustainer! give me an eternal station above that which  
 I hope for, for verily I am firmly seated in my spiritual locus  
 O Best of riches whose help is sought after by means of His bounty  
 O He who has a mosque built for me in His presence

Hasten for me the victory which I hope for here in this life  
So that there in the Next I may fall in prostration of necessity  
Hasten for me victory and might here in this life  
So that the disbelieving infidels can be driven away from me  
And make eternal Your blessings with peace upon the Prophet  
regarding his family and Companions O Unique One!

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