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THE HEROIC RECITATIONS OF THE  
BAHIMA OF ANKOLE

*By H. F. MORRIS*

SOMALI POETRY

An Introduction

*By B. W. ANDRZEJEWSKI and I. M. LEWIS*

# SOMALI POETRY

*An Introduction*

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AND

I. M. LEWIS

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57 Who would run for safety with speed,  
 58 And with men who counsel war  
 59 And are determined on it, you are full;  
 60 Oh clansmen, stop the war!

\* \* \* \* \*

61 (Just as) the Majeerteen clan their glory,  
 62 And their tribute from the Hawiye people  
 63 And their regal staff,<sup>1</sup> have lost,  
 64 The 'Ismaan Maḥamuud lineage  
 65 And 'Igalle's descendants who are in the same plight  
 66 And 'Iise's people, are all deficient in strength;  
 67 In the regions of 'Adduun  
 68 And 'Adaale they pasture no longer,  
 69 At 'Asayr and Sayn  
 70 By the famous tree  
 71 Beyond 'Awbarre  
 72 In remote places  
 73 Facing the shore  
 74 They are forced to turn for sustenance to the fruit of the  
 immature date palm.  
 75 And this is the path you are following (to the same end)  
 76 Oh clansman, stop the war!

### 15. *The Limits of Submission*

FAARAH NUUR

This poem describes how the poet's clan had for long lived in submission to a stronger group, but were driven in the end to rebel and to assert their independence.

1 Over and over again to people  
 2 I show abundant kindness.  
 \* \* \* \* \*  
 3 If they are not satisfied  
 4 I spread out bedding for them  
 5 And invite them to sleep.

\* \* \* \* \*

<sup>1</sup> 'Regal staff' refers to the decorated wooden staff of office traditionally carried by some clan sultans.

57 Oo cararaaya had dhow  
 58 Iyo nin colaad talinaaya  
 59 Oo caddaystaydinka buucha e  
 60 Waar tolow, colka jooja!

\* \* \* \* \*

61 Majeerteen calankii  
 62 Iyo cashuurtii Hawiyaa  
 63 Iyo cukaaskii boqor waa  
 64 Oo Reer Cismaan Machamuud  
 65 Iyo Cigallii ka dhignaa  
 66 Iyo Ciise ways ku itaal  
 67 Iyo in dhowayd ba Cadduun  
 68 Iyo Cadaale reer ma furayn  
 69 Casaasayr iyo Sayn iyo  
 70 Geedkii caanka ahaa  
 71 Iyo Cawbaarrowgu sokaysa  
 72 Oo hadduu cawtalgasiira  
 73 Iyo badda coonka u jeedda  
 74 Ka cawaaganayaa

75 Oo caynkii baydin waddaan e  
 76 Waar tolow, colka jooja!

1 Rag sabaan ka sabaan baan  
 2 Samaantuun badiyaa  
 \* \* \* \* \*  
 3 Hadduu saakimi waayo  
 4 Sariiraan u dhigaa  
 5 Is ka seecho idhaa

\* \* \* \* \*

6 If they are still not satisfied,  
 7 The milk of the camel whose name is Suub  
 8 I milk three times for them,  
 9 And tell them to drink it up.

\* \* \* \* \*

10 If they are still not satisfied,  
 11 The homestead's ram,  
 12 And the fat he-goat I kill for them.

\* \* \* \* \*

13 If they are still not satisfied,  
 14 The plate from Aden  
 15 I fill with ghee for them.

\* \* \* \* \*

16 If they are still not satisfied,  
 17 A beautiful girl  
 18 And her bridal house I offer them.

\* \* \* \* \*

19 If they are still not satisfied,  
 20 I select livestock also  
 21 And add them to the tribute.

\* \* \* \* \*

22 If they are still not satisfied,  
 23 'Oh brother-in-law, oh Sultan, oh King!'  
 24 These salutations I lavish upon them.

\* \* \* \* \*

25 If they are still not satisfied,  
 26 At the time of early morning prayers I prepare  
 27 The dark grey horse with black tendons,  
 28 And with the words 'Praise to the Prophet' I take  
 29 The iron-shafted spear,  
 30 And drive it through their ribs  
 31 So that their lungs spew out;  
 32 Then they are satisfied!

6 Hadduu saakimi waayo na  
 7 Caanihii hashaa Suub baan  
 8 Saddech goor u lisaa  
 9 Ku sarrigo idhaa

\* \* \* \* \*

10 Hadduu saakimi waayo  
 11 Sumalkii rugta joogay iyo  
 12 Sogobkaan u qalaa

\* \* \* \* \*

13 Hadduu saakimi waayo  
 14 Siirigii Cadameed baan  
 15 Subaggawga badshaa

\* \* \* \* \*

16 Hadduu saakimi waayo  
 17 Gabadh suurad wanaagsan baan  
 18 Surradda ugu dhisaa

\* \* \* \* \*

19 Hadduu saakimi waayo  
 20 Choolo gooni u soofiyo  
 21 Sadadaan ku ladhaa

\* \* \* \* \*

22 Hadduu saakimi waayo  
 23 Seeddow, mood iyo mood iyo  
 24 Salaantaan badiyaa

\* \* \* \* \*

25 Hadduu saakimi waayo  
 26 Salaaddaan lallabaa yoo  
 27 Meydal seedo madow iyo  
 28 Salligaan cuskadaa yoo  
 29 Sulub cebo ku joogtaan  
 30 Sarartaa ku dhuftaa  
 31 Sambabkaa ka bachshaa  
 32 Markaasu sellimaa!