



CONTENDING RELIGIONS, IDENTITIES AND SPACE

MACERATA, NOVEMBER 12 -13, 2015

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PAPER'S TITLE: FACTIONALISM, REVISIONISM AND POLEMICS: AN EXAMINATION OF THE EMERGENCE AND GROWTH OF RADICAL QADIRIYYA NASIRIYYA-MOVEMENT IN KANO, 1989-2014

ABSTRACT:

The death of Shaykh Nasiru Kabara in 1996 had transferred the leadership of Qadiriyya-Nasiriyya to Shaykh Qarib Allah Nasiru Kabara, so also the title that Kabara held as the leader of Qadiriyya in Africa from 1949-1996. Although there were no clear rules of succession spelt out by Kabara, but the nuances of treatments to his biological sons during his lifetimes favored Qarib Allah to emerge as the rightful *caliph* (successor). Qarib Allah's *caliphship* is being bitterly contested by his two half-brothers, Qasiyuni and Abd al-Jabbar, for alleged "ineptitude" and "politicization" of the Qadiriyya-Nasiriyya. Qarib Allah thus sidelined them and that dissuaded them from participating in the activities of Qadiriyya Nasiriyya. Consequently, Abd al-Jabbar, the more outspoken of the two, developed a radical movement named *Mujamma'u Ashab al-Kahf Wa al-Raqeem* (MAK), the avenue he used to radically revisit the alleged anomalies invented in the order and also counteract the diffusion of Salafi doctrines that threatens the hegemonic position of Sufi brotherhoods which he accused Qarib Allah of being complacent about. The stands taken by both Qasiyuni and Abd al-Jabbar eventually factionalized Kabara's children and bred the practices of some rites contrary to the mainstream Qadiriyya-Nasiriyya with radical and revisionist tendency. This paper examines the effects of factionalism among Shaykh Nasiru Kabara's children on Qadiriyya-Nasiriyya with emphasis on the emergence and transformation of 'Radical' Qadiriyya-Nasiriyya movement led by Abd al-Jabbar.

Key words: Qadiriyya-Nasiriyya, Factionalism, Radicalism, Caliphship, Qarib'Allah, Abduljabar and Qasiyuni

AUTHOR'S SHORT BIO AND ACADEMIC PROFILE:

I was born in Kano and attended Kofar Kabuga Special Primary School. I proceeded to Aminu Kano Commercial College, Goron Dutse, Kano and Government Senior Secondary School, Goron Dutse, Kano for my junior and senior secondary school education. I got my first and second degrees at the Department of History (where I work now as Graduate Assistant), Bayero University, Kano, Nigeria. I worked with Kano State Senior Secondary Schools Management Board as Education Office from 2009-2010 after which I was employed at Aminu Kano Centre for Democratic Research and Training, Mambayya House, Bayero University, Kano, Nigeria, as the Curator of Mallam Aminu Kano Living History Museum from 2010-2013. I am currently preparing a proposal for a PhD programme and the tentative title of my research is ***Migration of Knowledge: An Intellectual Connection between Kano, North Africa and Timbuktu c.1591-1945***. I published article in different journals locally and internationally among which are *Annual Review of Islam in Africa* (ARIA), University of Cape Town, *Kano Journal of History*, Bayero University, Kano, *Kano Journal of History*, a publication of Department of History, Bayero University Kano, Nigeria.