

THE PROXIMATE VICINITY OF ALLAH (SWT) MOTHER OF ALL BELIEVING MURIDS AND OF THE PREFERRED SERVANT OF THE PROPHET (SAW)

All praises are due to Allah the Almighty, the Lord of all that exists. May Allah's peace and blessing be upon His final Prophet and Messenger, Muhammad, his family and his Companions.

Sayidatuna Sokhna Mariama Bousso (Mariama Bousso) better known as Mame Jarra [Jarra'tuLahi], The Proximate Vicinity of Allah SWT. Born in the year 1833 [1250 of the Hegira] at Golléré, small town of Fouta, daughter of Serigne Muhammadu Bousso and of Sokhna Astou Waalo Mbacke.

Sokhna Jarra whose father is a direct progeny of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). She descends from a lineage whose origin 'Sharifian' attested dates back up to Imam Hassan son of Ali ibn Abu Talib, Al-Hassan (May God honor him), grandson of the beloved Prophet (Salla-Laahu 'alayhi wa-sallam).

Her mother Sokhna Astou Waalo who's reported to have lived a hundred and thirty eight (138) years, she owes a strong background in Religious Studies (Islamic Legislation, Theology, Politeness legal, etc), a deep mastery of the practice of Sufism, and the science that the majority of Muslims in the sub-region were unaware of at that time. She taught the Koran and it is said that since she was thirty years of age every night she would recite the entirety of the Glorious Koran in eight (8) Rakkas.

Originally from the great family of 'Mboussobé' known for their piety, their righteousness and their infiltration to the core Islamic values, Sayidatuna Mariama Bousso very early faithfully followed in the footsteps of her ancestors and her unflinching devotion earned her the name "JARRATOUL - LAHI" (The Proximate Vicinity of Allah (SWT)). The Sainte Mother of Khadimou Rassul is a reference, a completed Model for virtuous women, an inexhaustible ocean of virtues!

Very early, she had already acquired a solid knowledge of the Holy Quran.

Raised by both parents, at ten (10) years of age Mame Jarra guaranteed the memorization of the Holy Koran verbally and written. At nineteen (19) years, she completed the study of religious sciences such as theology and jurisprudence and at twenty (20) years, she insinuated the first steps on the hard path of Sufism. With the help of GOD, she infiltrated its final stage symbolized by the perfect soul (Nafsun kaamila).

Educated in this atmosphere of piety and spirituality, Sokhna Mariama Bousso conspicuous of prayer, fasting, donations and the work piles of sacrament. Anytime, anywhere, So she took it to the divine commands, the source of blessings and bliss and avoided any prohibited source of immorality and decay. Similarly, she dutifully performed her marital and social duties.

The Heir of Porokhane became fortuitous within her family by her gentleness, kindness, her affability and availability to children and adults. The divine decree, which is the origin of all, this holy creature tied to the great scholar and man of God "Cadi" the Judge Serigne Momar Anta Saly Mbacke. They had four children: Serigne Mame Mor Jarra, Shaykh Ahmadou Bamba {founder of Mouridism and Servant of the Prophet (PBUH)} Serigne Khadim and Mame Abiboullahi who returned to his Lord from an early age.

Serigne Mame Mor Jarra, elder brother of Serigne Touba Khadimu Nabi, also recognized as the Heir of Saam who's distinguished to have prayed a hundred (100) Rakkas during every night, just as credentials of the exceptional dimension of Sokhna Jarra and her illustrious son Shaykh Ahmadou Bamba whom she eventually pledge allegiance to and yet Serigne Mame Mor Jarra was the elder brother!

Some biographers of Mame Jarra support that it was her father Serigne Muhammadu Bousso who succeeded in a dream that Sayidatuna Mariama will arise the Pole of all time. He then gave his daughter's hand to the Judge Serigne Mam Mor Anta Saly Mbacke renowned for his moral rectitude and piety. However others contend that Sokhna Anta Ndiaye Mbacke (mother of Serigne Gaawaan or well known as Serigne Cheikh Anta Mbacke; Shaykh Ahmadou Bamab's younger brother) who advised Serigne Mam Mor Anta, her husband, to take a second wife Sokhna Mariama Bousso with respect to her numerous qualities.

Thus, She always demonstrated a commitment to her husband. The famous anecdote that she spent an entire night in the rain waiting until the first light of dawn for the order to abandon the section of the fence that her husband had asked her to hold remained vivid in our minds. Similarly most of their contemporaries

testify that Sokhna Mariama Bousso never asked her husband for money for the subsistence of the family. She was doing in case of difficulties, in her own ways, to provide daily meals, because having the intimate conviction that the magnitude of their sacrifice, will depend on the size and the blessing of their offsprings.

Today, we must recognize that God has subsidized her with a son who draws, attracts or hasten the creatures from around the universe like a shower that falls from the sky because they have placed their hope in Him. Shaykh Ahmadou Bamba (Khadimu Rasul). Sayidatuna Sokhna Mariama Bousso (radhi Allahû 'anha) was a mother to all the son and other disciples of Mamor Anta Saly.

She was a glutton for work, household: in search of water at the well to abbreviate the thirst of many believers, preparing delicious and abundant meals, washing clothes, looking for dead wood for cooking and for warming the many cold disciples.

If "the immensity of the results" obtained in such a short life (33 years only!) to "smallness of means to measure the magnitude" of Sokhna Jarra, lets allow ourselves to follow her footsteps, especially young women, to put the step on the path that will lead us to spiritual ascent.

Wisdom also says that whoever does not have nine things will not get nine things:

- 1) One who is not equipped with an intelligence free from contamination cannot have benefits.
- 2) He who does not have a pure knowledge enabling him to distinguish good from evil cannot have nobility.
- 3) Anyone not working towards cannot scarcely have retribution.
- 4) The one who does not have a pure intention will not have gain even if he does well.
- 5) The piety cannot be perfect only if the individual may be ashamed to do certain meanness.
- 6) We cannot find a friend only if someone who has good character. Indeed, friendship with someone who has a bad character is always doomed to separation.
- 7) We cannot have good characters unless by persevering in righteousness and goodness.
- 8) We cannot be a leader unless one is tolerant.
- 9) We cannot have blessings only if we have noble characters.

Thank You Sayidatuna Sokhna Mariama Bousso (radhi Allahû 'anha). It is an imperative for us all to go swim in this ocean of endless virtues that constitute the work of Mame Mariama Jarra Bousso (radhi Allahû 'anha), The Proximate Vicinity of Allah (SWT) who only spent 33 years on earth, and has been able to offer all mankind a safe haven, an inviolable asylum, and a dedicated viaticum.

Sayidatuna Sokhna Mariama Bousso (radhi Allahû 'anha){1833-1865}