

African Voices in Islamic Manuscripts from Mali

In conjunction with the meeting of the “Old Mande Research Network”

31 October 2018

**The scribes of the Soninke Islamic
manuscripts and their networks**

Darya Ogorodnikova

مبتدأ

لَا تَوْجِيهَ نَا أَمْرَ النَّبِيَانِ عَدَا لِحَقِّهِ

وعنه كلام من

من المسمين

وَعَدَمَ مَنَفَعَةٍ قَطْرٍ مِّنْ مَّسَلَمِ الْمَلِكِ

قويبه تظفر

السويحي

فَلَا يَلِيهِ بَيْنَنَا وَلَا الْيَغْيِزِيهِ

توجيه من ان كاذب طرما كل ترمي كوفيد

الخطيب

عَلَى السَّبِيلِ الْهَدَىٰ وَلَا غَيْرَ مِّنَ السَّبِيلِ

فالحمد الجزاء من طوفيدت طار كذيقا

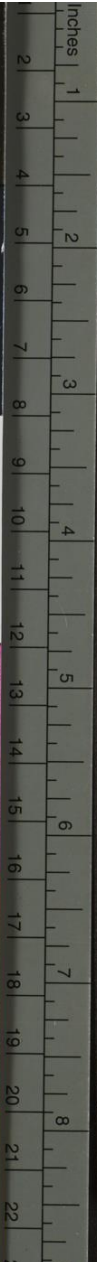
فَيَنْشُرَ اللَّهُ قِيَمًا مِّنْ هَذِهِ آيَتِهِ

كلمت افا كذيقا طامات طوسيه

كافير شيبا

فَمَنْ لَّمْ يَنْلِهُ الْهَدَىٰ وَلَمْ يُجِبْ مِّنْ لَّدُنْ

المعنى ان الله تعالى لا يهدي القوم الذين لا يريدون الهدى ولا يهدي القوم الذين لا يسمعون لهادى ولا يهدي القوم الذين لا يمشون على الهدى ولا يهدي القوم الذين لا يريدون الهدى ولا يهدي القوم الذين لا يسمعون لهادى ولا يهدي القوم الذين لا يمشون على الهدى ولا يهدي القوم الذين لا يريدون الهدى ولا يهدي القوم الذين لا يسمعون لهادى



Corpus: 130+ mss, end 18th – 21st century.

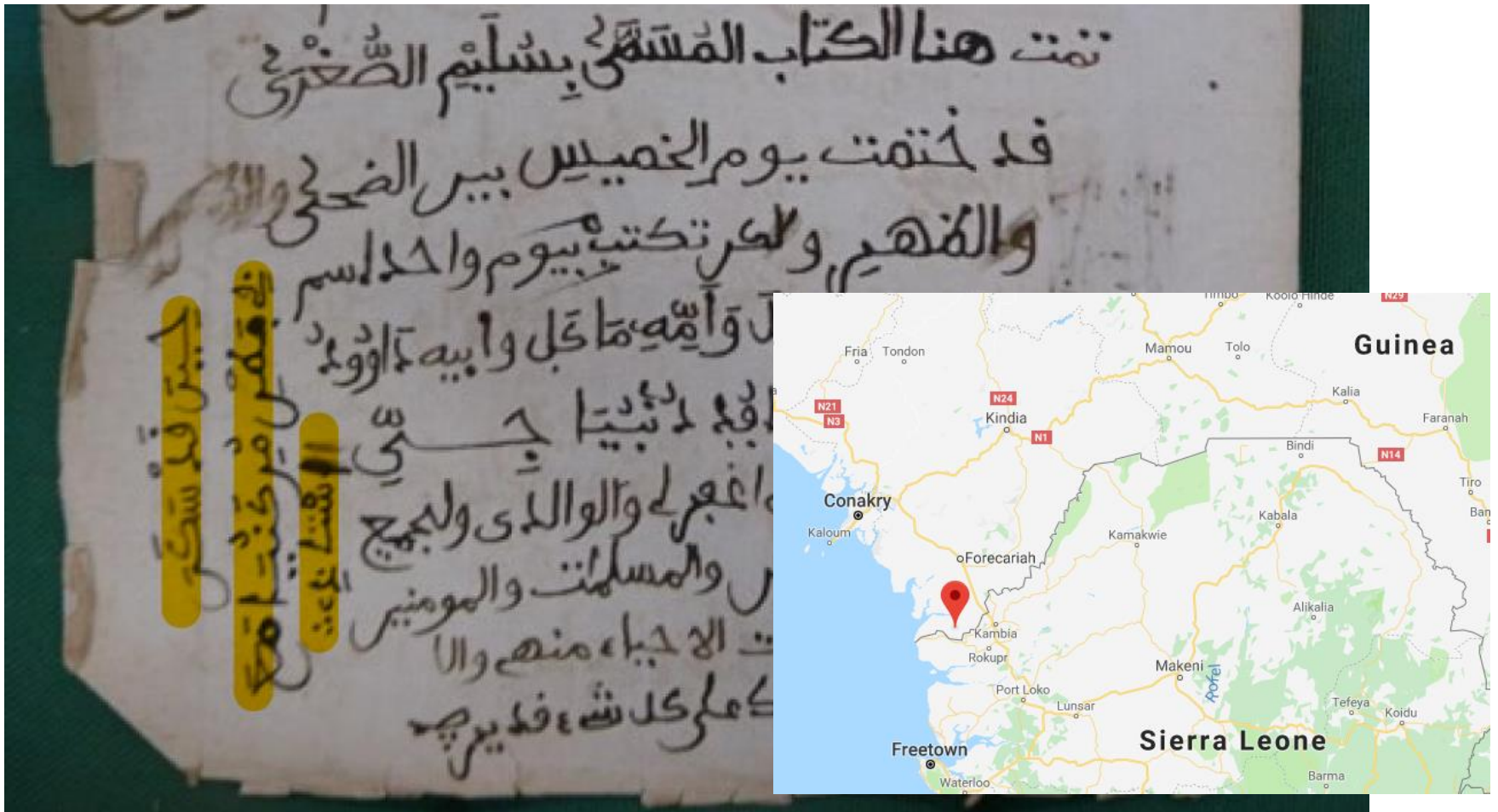
Most frequent texts with Soninke Ajami annotations:

Subject matter: title, authour

	Number of copies
Biography of the Prophet/ Devotional poetry:	
▪ <i>Takhmīs</i> on al-Fāzāzī's <i>Ishrīnīyāt</i> by Ibn Mahīb	10
▪ <i>al-Kawākib al-durriyya fī madḥ khayr al-barriya (al-Burda)</i> by al-Būṣīrī	3
Islamic law:	
▪ <i>Risāla al-Qayrawāniyya</i>	6
▪ <i>Sharḥ Mukhtasār Khalil</i>	4
Theology/belief (<i>tawḥīd</i>):	
▪ <i>al-ʿAqīda</i> by al-Sanūsī	6
▪ <i>Tajrīd fī kalimat al-tawḥīd</i> d' Aḥmad b. Muḥammad al-Ghazālī	4
▪ <i>Jawāhir min al-kalām et Dalīl al-qāʿid li-kashf asrār ṣifāt al-wāḥid</i> by ibn Sulaym al-Awjilī	4
Qur'anic Exegesis:	
▪ <i>Tafsīr al-Jalālayn</i> by Jalāl al-Dīn Muḥammad al-Maḥallī (d. 1459) and Jalāl al-Dīn ʿAbd al-Raḥmān al-Suyūṭī	2

Geographical origin of the mss: information from colophons



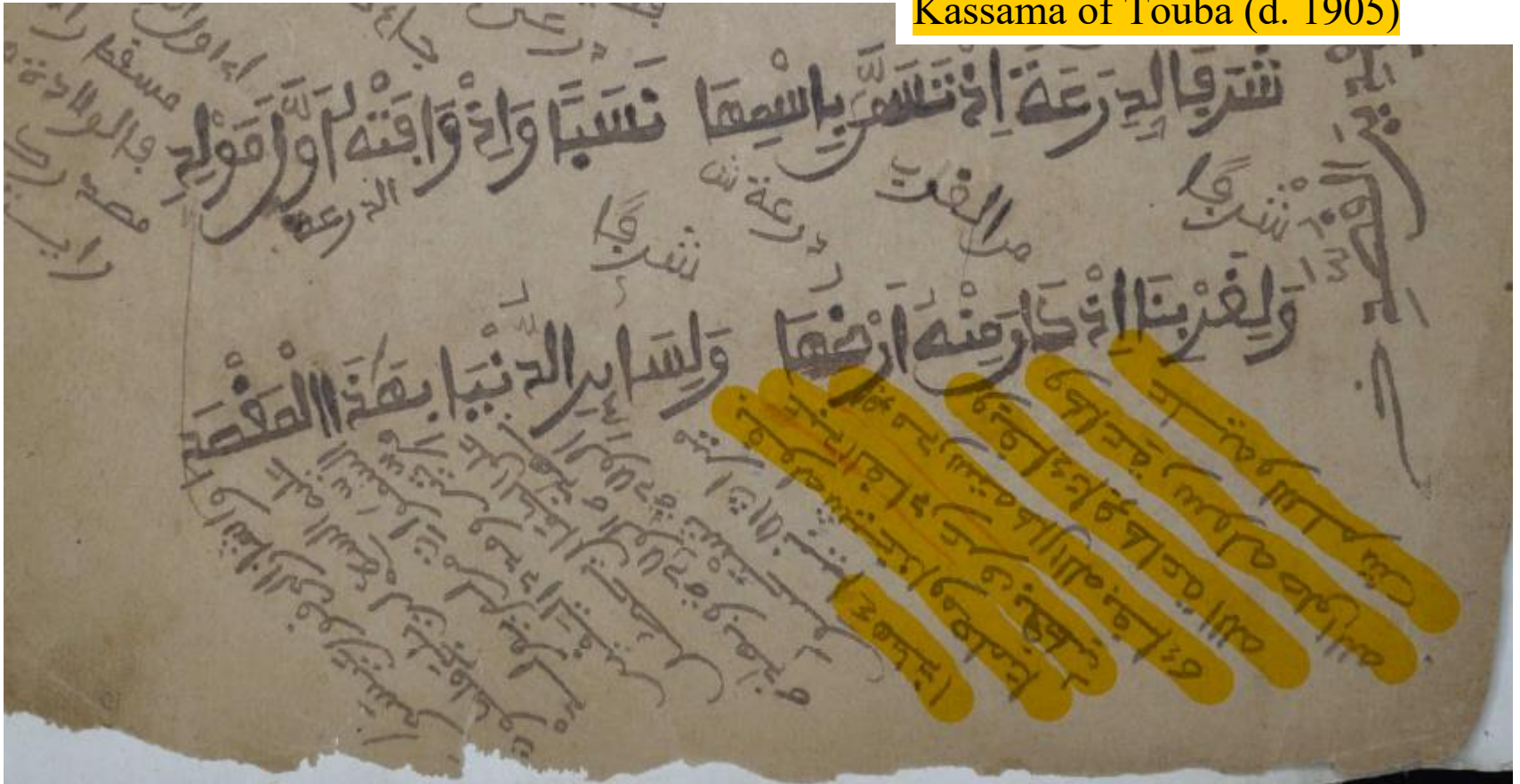


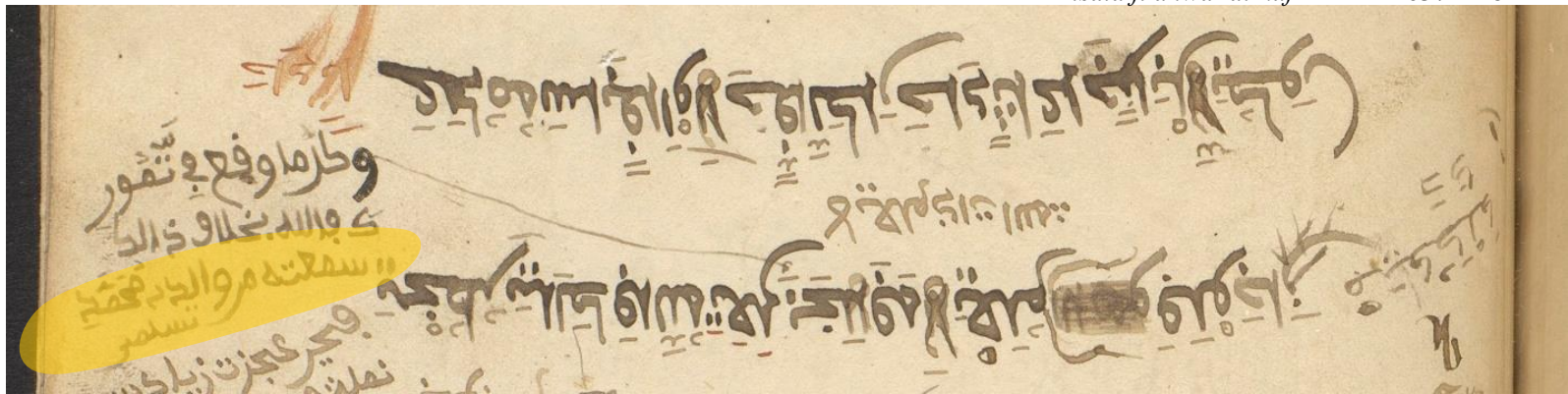
‘Finished the book named “Sulaym small”, completed on Thursday between forenoon and noon, but written on Sunday [...] at the time when he was living in Morekaniya with [his] teacher’.

bi-qaūlihi shaykhunā wa mu‘alimnā ‘Abd al-Qādir ‘urifa bi-Quṭb fī madrasatihi ṭāla allahu baqā’hu

‘These are words of our shaykh and our teacher ‘Abd al-Qādir known as Quṭb. May God grant him long life.’

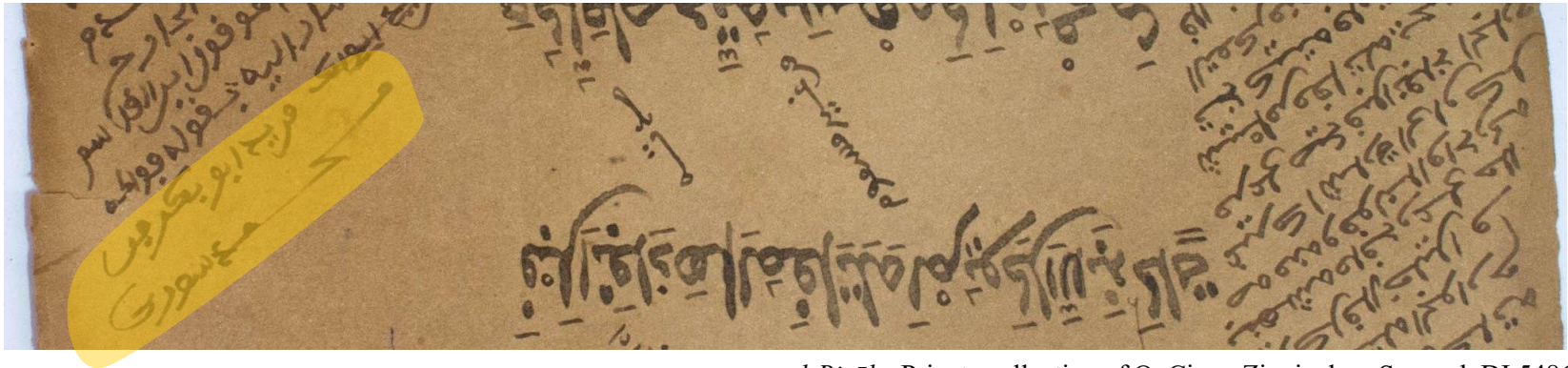
‘Abd al-Qādir b. Muḥammad Taslīmī
Kassama of Touba (d. 1905)





sami 'tuhu min wālidī Muḥammad Taslīmī
 'I heard it from my father Muḥammad Taslīmī'

Muḥammad Taslīmī b. al-Ḥājj Sālīm
 Kassama of Touba (d. 1829/ 48/ 52)



al-Risāla. Private collection of O. Cisse, Ziguinchor, Senegal. DI 5486

min yad Abūbakr b. Muḥammad Suwarī
 'from the hand of Abūbakr b. Muḥammad Suware'

Muḥammad al-Amīn b.
 Ibrāhīm Suware of Touba
 (c. 1800)

JAHANKA SILSILA FOR TAFSIR

The Prophet (d. 632/10)

^cAbd Allāh ibn ^cUmar (d. ca. 692-93/73-74)

Nafi^c (d. 735/117)

Al-Imām Maḥlik (d. 795/179) of Medina

Ibn al-Qāsim (d. 806/191) of Egypt

Ṣaḥnūn (d. 854/240) of Qayrawān in Ifriqiyya

Ibn Ḥabīb

Muḥammad al-Ṣalīḥ

Abū Ṣā^cid

Ishāq

Ṣisākhu Qūrī

Tūrī Qūrī

Al-Ḥājj Māniqū

Al-Ḥājj Ṣalīm Suwāri

d. 1600

Yūsuf Kasama

Jibrīl Kabā

^cUthmān Suwāri

Muḥammad Fatajū

Muḥammad Jaghabi

Al-Amīn Kājaqī

Yūsuf Darami

Muḥammad Yarāmaghan

Al-Ḥājj Kasama

Kabā Sillā

Muḥammad Tanū Tūrī

Muḥammad Faṭīm Kasama

d. 1770/ 95

^cUthmān Ghārī

Al-Ḥājj Ṣalīm Jābi-Kasama

d. 1824/29/36

Ibrāhīm Āmina Sillā

TABLE 3

SUWĀRI PEDIGREE

Jaynaba, daughter of the Prophet

Mu'minu

Muhammad

^c Abd Allāh

Yūsuf Sīsī

Al-Ḥājj Sālim Suwāri al-Zāghāwiyyu al-Mālikiyyu

d. 1600

^c Uthmān Suwāri

Aḥmad Suwāri

Al-Qāḍī Suwāri

Ibrāhīm Suwāri

^c Abd al-Qādir Suwāri

Ibrāhīm Suwāri

c. 1800

Muhammad al-Amīn Suwāri

Maḥmūd Suwāri

Ansu Madi Suwāri

Ibrāhīm Suwāri

Muhammad Suwāri of Jagha Ba in Bambuk

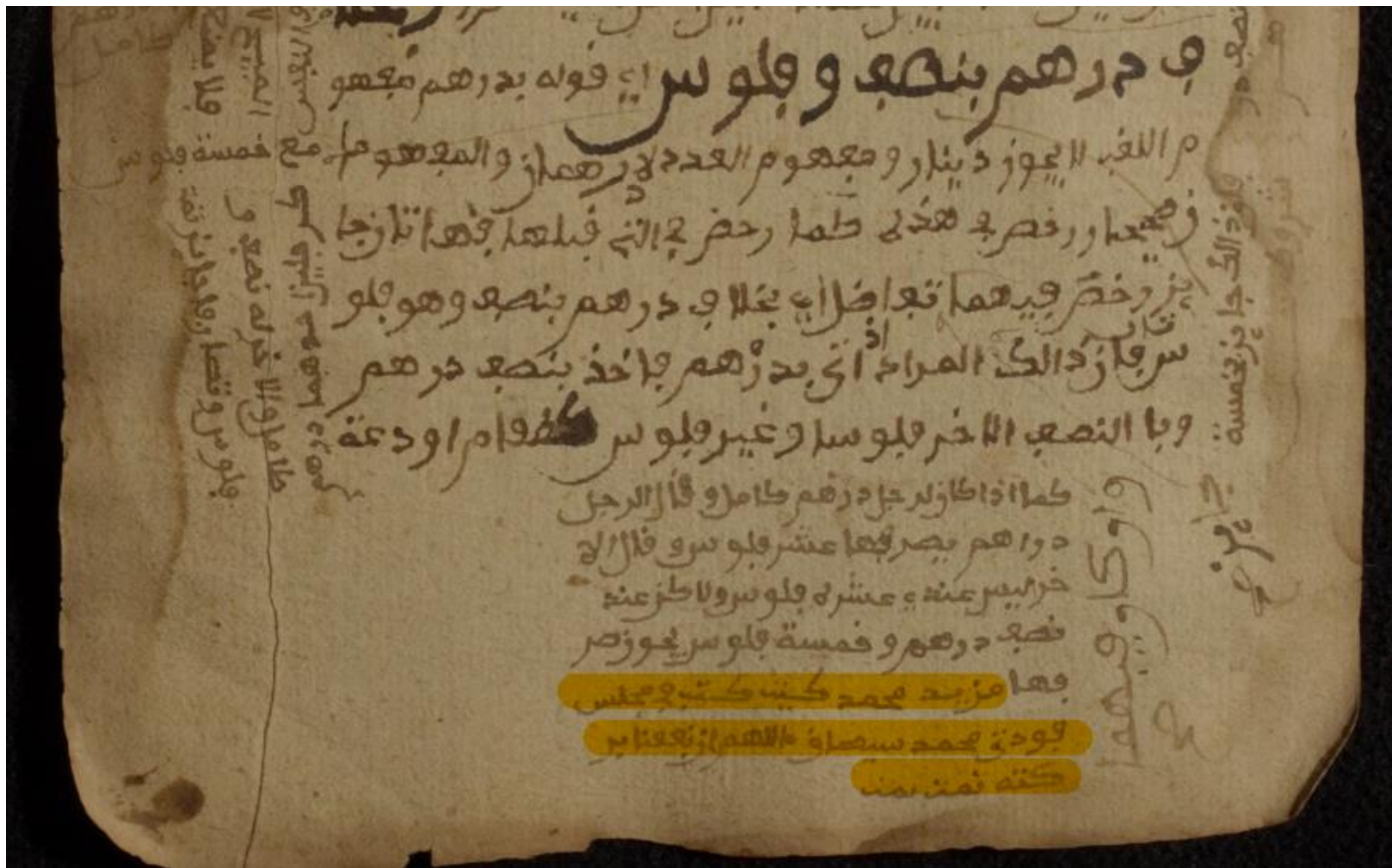
^c Umar Suwāri of Misr in eastern Senegal

Karamba Suwāri of Misr

Abū Bakr Suwāri of Misr

Muhammad al-Amīn Suwāri (presently about sixty years of age) of Sabi in the Gambia

min yad Muḥammad Kyt kataba fī majlis Fūdī Muḥammad Sīṣāqu
 ‘By the hand of Muḥammad Koyta in *majlis* of Muḥammad Sissakho’



Sharkh Mukhtaṣar, private collection of Aliou Doukoure, Diawara, Senegal.

DI 0080

SONINKE SILSILA FOR TAFSĪR

The Prophet

^cAbd Allāh ibn ^cUmar

Nāfi^c

Mālik

Ibn al-Qāsim

Sahnūn

Ibn Abī Zayd

Majari

^cAbd Allāh ibn Nāfi^c

^cAbd Allāh ibn Ḥājib

Shaykh Khalīl

Bahrāmī, an Arab

Aḥmad Dāra of Timbuktu

1556 - 1627

Aḥmad Bābā of Timbuktu

Al-Walī Ṣāliḥ of Tichit

d. 1659-60

^cUmar al-Walī of Biru (Walata)

Fūdī^c Amr Kasama of Jongaga

Fūdī Muḥammad Siryān Kibi of Jongaga

c. 1770

Fūdī Muḥammad Bābā Jāwara of Kunjur (Goundiouro)

Fūdī Abū Bakr Darami of Guri in Diaffunu

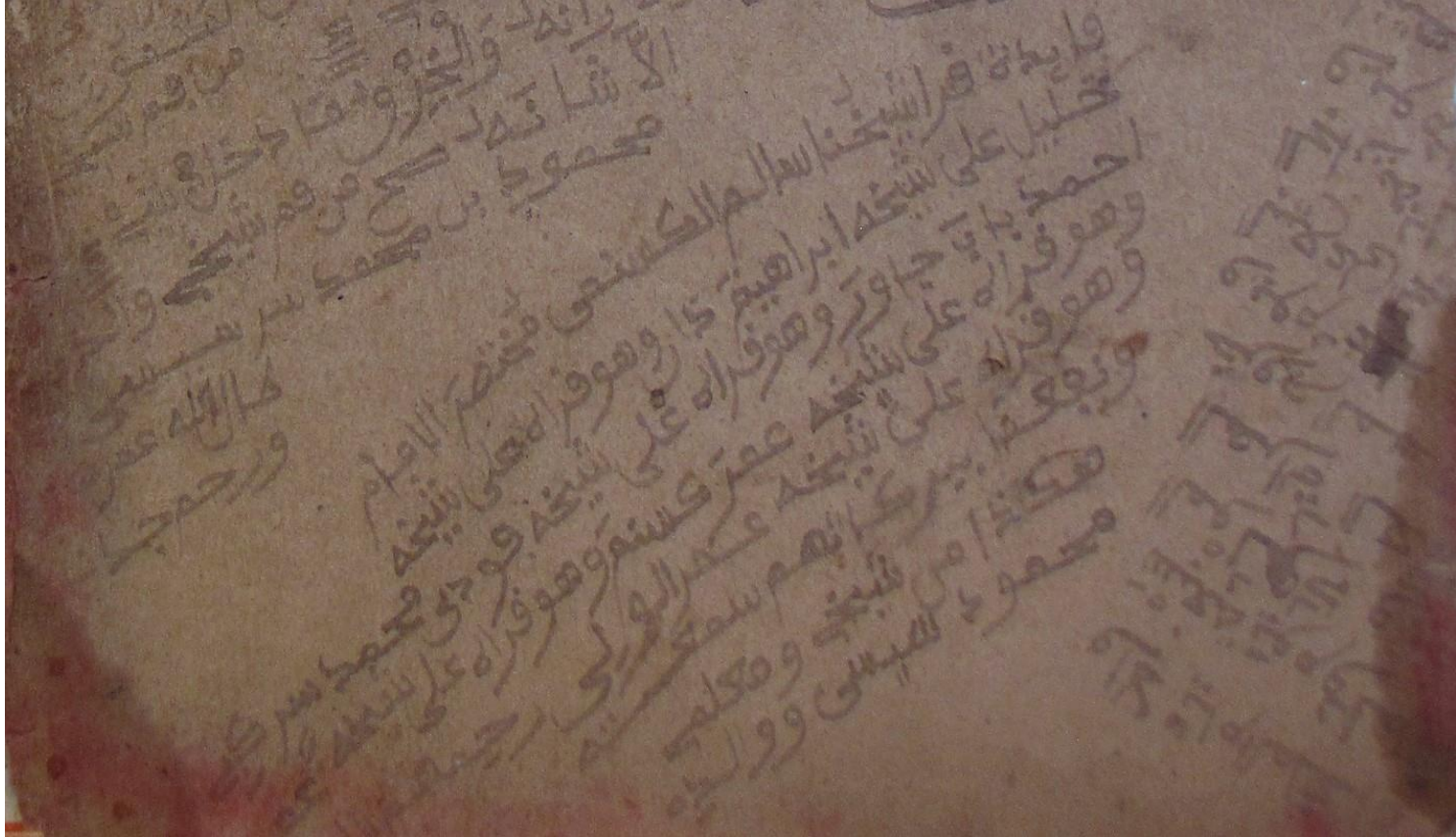
Fūdī Muḥammad Sīsākhū of Arundu in Gajaga

Fūdī Muḥammad Dukuri of Bajara in Bondu

Aḥmad Kuntī of Gambisarra in the Gambia

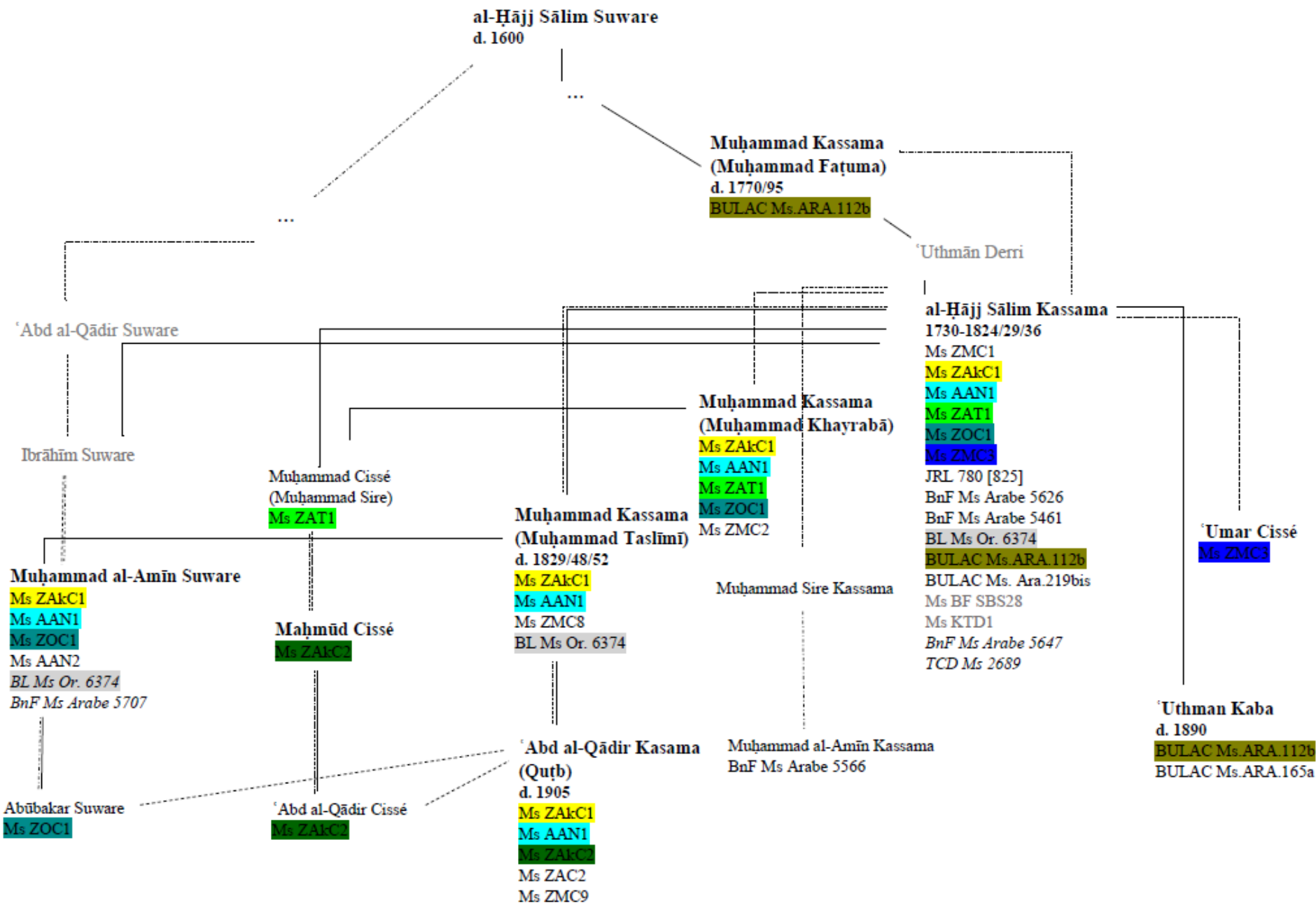
Mūsā Kuntī of Gambisarra

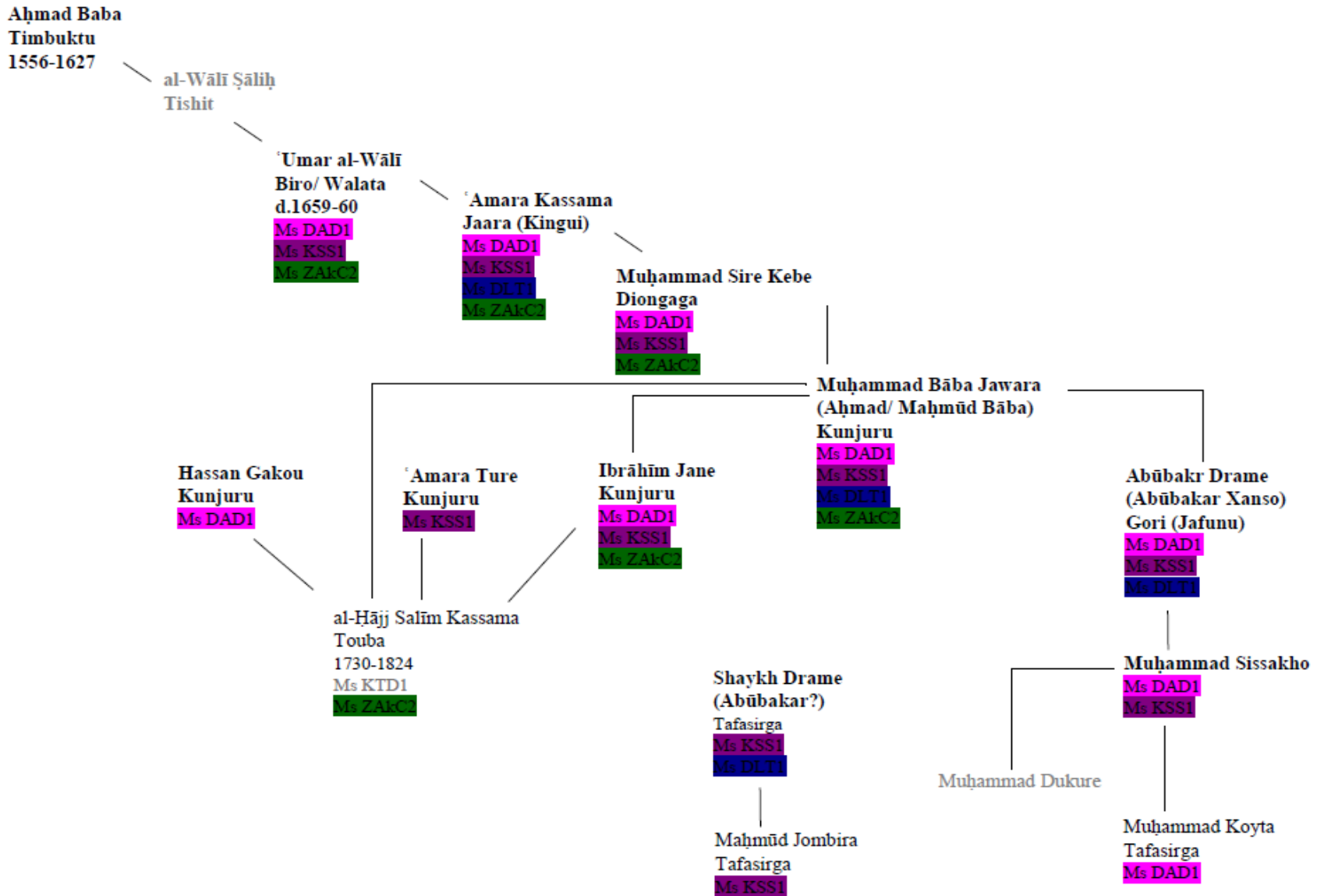
Abū Bakr Kuntī of Gambisarra



Tuḥfat al-ḥukkām. Private collection of A. Cissé, Ziguinchor, Senegal. DI 3908.

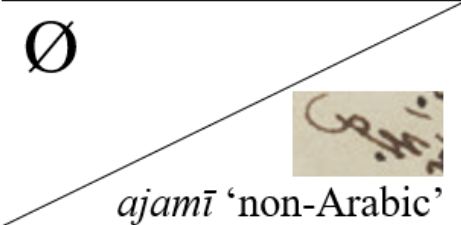

‘Our shaykh Salim Kassama studied *Mukhtaṣar* by Imām Khalīl under his shaykh Ibrāhīm Jane, and he studied it under his shaykh **Aḥmad Bāba Jawara**, and he studied it under his shaykh **Muḥammad Sire Kebe**, and he studied it under his shaykh **Amara Kassama**, and he studied it under his shaykh **Amara al-Walī**, may God have mercy upon him and grant us with their blessings. So I heard from my shaykh and my teacher and my father Mahmud Sisse.’





Language configurations in mss:

- **Distribution in the glosses:** primary *vs.* supplementary

	Marker	Locality	Ms Groups	
Language	\emptyset  <i>ajamī</i> 'non-Arabic'	<i>fī kalāminā</i> 'in our words/ language' 		
	Soninke		Mali: region of Kayes, Tafasirga, Kunjuru, etc. Senegal: region of Bakel	MsG1
	Soninke	Mandinka	Guinea-Bissau, the Gambia, northern Guinea, Senegal: Casamance	MsG2
	Soninke	Susu?	Guinea, Sierra Leone	MsG3
	Soninke	Maninka of Manding region	Guinea, Mali, Côte d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso	MsG4

- **Genre distribution:**

- Soninke in glosses and commentaries *vs.* other (e.g. Mandinka, Maninka) in medicinal/ talismanic manuals, *etc.*
- Mandinka is used for writing colophons.

Ms Groups: Origin, Languages, Scholars, Spelling Conventions, Script Styles



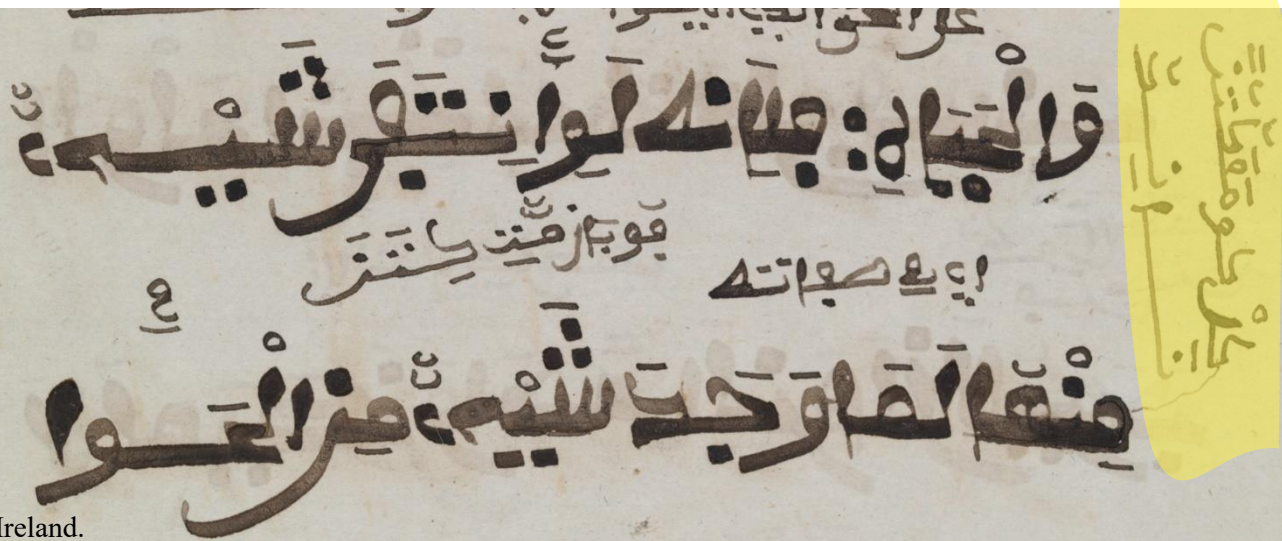
Spelling variations in mss groups

MsG1	/x-/~/q-/	/-axa-/	/g-/	/-aga-/	/k-/	/-aka-/
	<q->	<-aqa->	<k->	<-aka->	<k->	∅
MsG2	/x-/~/q-/	/-axa-/	/g-/	/-aga-/	/k-/	/-aka-/
Soninke	<k-> <q->	<-aqa-> <-a'a-> <-aka-> <-ā-> <-a->	<k-> <q-> <kh->	<-aka-> <-aqa-> <-a'a->	<k-> <q->	∅
Mandinka	∅	∅	∅	∅	<k>	∅
MsG3	/x-/~/q-/	/-axa-/	/g-/	/-aga-/	/k-/	/-aka-/
Soninke	<q-> <k->	<-aqa-> <-aka-> <-a->	<-aqa-> <-aka->			∅
Maninka Manding	∅	∅	<k->	<-aka->	<k->	<-aka->
MsG4	/x-/~/q-/	/-axa-/	/g-/	/-aga-/	/k-/	/-aka-/
Soninke	<gh-> <q-> <kh-> <k->	<-agha-> <-aqa-> <-a->	<q-> <gh-> <k->	<-aka-> <-aqa->	<k->	∅
Susu?	?	?	<gh->	<-agha->	?	?

Spelling variations in content and function words: Comparative table Ms Groups 1 and 2

	Arabic	Translation	Soninke	MsG1	MsG2	Mandinka
1	<i>šifa</i>	‘quality, attribute’	màxankútò	<maqakutu>	<ma‘a ⁿ kutu>, <ma ⁿ kutu>, <mā kutu>, <maqa ⁿ kutu>	màṅkútu
2	<i>‘alā</i>	‘at’	màxa	<maqa>	<mā>, <maqa>	mà
3	<i>bayna</i>	‘between’	nàxaané		<nā ni>, <na‘ni>, <nani> <nakani>	tée; nàané ‘boundary’
4	<i>mar‘a</i>	‘woman’	yàxàré	<yaqari>	<yā ri>, <yakari>, <yaqari>, <yari>	mùsu
5	<i>qism</i>	‘part’	táxande		<ta‘adi>	táa
6	<i>arba‘a</i>	‘four’	naxati	<naqatu>	<naqatu>, <nā tu>	náani
7	<i>naqaša</i>	‘diminish, be deficient’	nàqási	<naqaši>	<naqaši>, <na‘asi>, <nā si>	náasi
8	<i>waqt</i>	‘time’	wáxati		<wā ti>, <waqati>, <wakati>	wáati
9	<i>ba‘aḍ</i>	‘some’	yugu		<yuqu>, <yū>	dóo
10		‘stay’			<tuqu>, <tu>	tú
11	<i>shaghala</i>	‘preoccupy’	suxulà		<sū la>, <shughula>	sòolá, sùulá
12	<i>anf</i>	‘nose’	núxunnè		<nū ni>, <nukuni>	núnj

Soninke in ms annotations: with Mandinka words?



TCD MS 3500 fol.14b. Dublin, Ireland.

Gloss to *minhā* ‘from it/ them’
(*i.e.* from power, will, knowledge and life)

Intermediary gloss in Arabic: *min siḫāt al-maanī al-arba‘a* ‘from four essential attributes’

<kil⁰ kw ma‘akutunaⁿ na’ nidu>

gèlli	kú	maxankuto-nu-n	náani	dí
from	DEM.PL	attribute-PL-D	four	PP

‘from these four attributes’

Soninke in ms annotations: with Mandinka words?

al-Risāla by Ibn Abī Zayd al-Qayrawani. TCD Ms 2179 f.26a. Dublin, Ireland

وَأَيْبُ تَيْبُ كَتَّ دِ كَرَادُو
وَالْمَرْبِلَةُ وَالْمَعْزِرَةُ وَهَفْبِرَةُ الْعَشْرُ
فَادَ بِنْفِرْعَا
بَلَطُ بَزِيدُ كَرَمٌ
كَبِيرٌ وَكَتَابٌ سَمْعٌ وَأَفْرَايَا جَلِيهٌ

Gloss to *maqbara al-mushrikūn* ‘cemetery of polytheists’

<filankafunu buru dikira mu>

filankafo-nu	bùrú	dìngira	mù
polytheist-PL	bury	place	is

‘[this] is the graveyard of polytheists’



Universität Hamburg

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CENTRE FOR THE
STUDY OF
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CULTURES

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Thank you for your attention!

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