



Hakamat

Other names:

حكيمات:Arabic



Change Image



Domain

ORAL TRADITIONS & EXPRESSIONS,
INC LANGUAGE

Oral Tradition

COMMUNITY GROUPS AND LOCATION



Community groups

West Sudan- Darfur and Kordufan



Practitioners

The Hakamat are Sudanese women considered the wisest and most knowledgeable in their community.

Famous Hakamat like: Mehera Aboud and Banota al Makk who were highly respected in their communities



Purpose / Use

The Hakamat's poetry and chants are used for emotional support, especially for men going to war. Where chants of encouragement take place.

It is also a form of local poetry and storytelling. The Hakamat through their poetry and performances of chants and songs engage in mobilising communities. Although they are mostly known for encouraging war, they have in recent days been recognised for their efforts in mobilising peace building.



Knowledge / Skills

Poetry writing, skills in memorising and writing chants for their current situation that are timely.

Knowledge of the important events and issues in their communities in order to script relevant chants and resolve issues



Transmission

Transmitting the importance of eloquence in language
The importance and impact of spoken word/poetry on communities and the importance of using these powers to drive peace and unity and conflict mitigation.

The skill is usually transmitted orally from generation to generation as the chants are used and memorised by those in the village. Although some of the poetry is captured and written, the main method of transmission is through participation and oral transmission.



Tools, Equipment, Services

- spoken word
- education, knowledge
- poetry



HISTORY

The Hakamat play an important and influential role in their communities. Their name Hakamat is said to have come from the Arabic word *Hikma*, meaning wisdom and from the word *Hakama* meaning horse's bridle, in reference to their influence in steering and mobilising of their communities. Some of their chants encourage conflict and incite violence, done to encourage their men to overcome wars and charge them. However, men who were seen to try to mitigate conflict were considered weak and ridiculed by the Hakamat chants. This is due to the nature of the areas and communities they are in. They have faced lots of conflicts and were hence inspired to support their communities in winning wars and conflicts as a form of survival and strength.

Although they are seen to drive conflict, not all of their chants are negative, some chants call for peace and tell a story about their surrounding circumstances and daily life.

Initiatives by international organisations that realise the Hakamat power to mobilise communities are working with the Hakamat to develop peace-driven chants and less of the war inciting chants. The power they have to reach communities isn't unnoticed, the Hakamat were used to spread awareness of illiteracy, the importance of education and the importance of child vaccination, which helped the wellness of their communities. They are a trusted voice in their communities.

INTRODUCTION

The Hakamat play an important and influential role in their communities. Their name- Hakamat is said to have come from the Arabic word *Hikma*, meaning wisdom.

It is also said to be derived from the Arabic word *hakama*, which is the horse's bridle, in reference to their words and songs being strong and of influence in their community.

Cultural Value:

- Social influence, Hakama- judge or reign for the society
- Mobilising communities and uniting them

Associated Practices:

The Hakamat are trusted figures in their communities.

in addition to their practices, poetry gatherings where women share their writing and performances take place.

It is also a space to share news, updates and sometimes gossip. these also serve as inspiration for new poems and chants.

The Hakamat are also considered problem solvers in their community. where people would listen to them to resolve disputes. Some may argue it's due to their wisdom, while others worry the Hakamat might chant negatively about them if they don't resolve their disputes.

Cultural Expressions

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VIABILITY

Threats:

- They live in conflict zones, migration, the lack of interest from the youth could all have a negative impact on this culture not being passed on to next generations
- Controversial role and perception



Natural Resources used

N/A

▶ Image(s) source :

▶ Link(s)