



Sagriya Dance

Other names:

Falcon Dance

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Domain

Performing Arts
Dance

COMMUNITY GROUPS AND LOCATION

Community groups

The "Sagriya" dance is popular among the tribes of the central Nile region and the Batahin plain extending to eastern Sudan, and is characterized by the Batahin, Shakriya, and Bani Amer tribes.

Practitioners

Sudanese men and young males

Purpose / Use

For pride and national celebrations, and expressing courage and chivalry. A celebratory culture associated with the values of courage and chivalry.

Knowledge / Skills

The skill of dancing is linked to attempting to imitate animals. It includes knowledge of how the secretary bird hunts for snakes and serpents.

Transmission

It is passed down through experience and from generation to generation. However, recently, some training workshops have been established to teach it practically.

Tools, Equipment, Services

The sword, the spear, the shield, the trumpets, and the drums.

HISTORY

Some sources trace the dance of "Al-Sagriyah" back to some ancient Sudanese civilizations through comparing its movements to drawings depicting a ceremonial ritual practiced by the ancestors since the unification of the Nile Valley over 5000 years ago.

INTRODUCTION

One of the dances associated with equestrianism and animal imitation that is widely spread in the Bataineh plain, extending to the east of Sudan. It is called "Sagriyah" because the dancers in it imitate the movement and walk of the falcon as it is about to catch a snake. They shake their swords and spread their wings as if they were the wings of a falcon, while one performer lies on the ground embodying the role of the prey, and the other hovers around him with the same movements of a falcon. The "Sagr- Falcon," also known as the "Secretary Bird," symbolizes the country of Sudan, a bird known for its strength and unique appearance, characterised by long legs that it uses to strike its prey, especially snakes. The young men imitate this falcon in all its movements, from kicking to spreading their wings and folding their necks after killing the prey. This dance is a form of expression of strength and equestrianism. Sometimes sticks, swords, daggers, and spears are used in it. The "Sagriyah" dance is performed to the traditional music played by local instruments such as drums and flutes. The dance is characterized by fast circular movements that reflect the vitality and activity of the dancers, who wear colorful and ornate traditional costumes that add a special aesthetic to the performance.

Cultural Value:

The "Sagriya" dance is considered one of the most prominent aspects of Sudanese cultural heritage as it includes an attractive artistic display that expresses identity, belonging, and national pride.

Associated Practices:

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Cultural Expressions

I say "Ghanawat" and I say "Ghanawat" in the beautiful country, its gardens are in front of me, and with the boy whose mother is nursing him, he flies in the open field like a falcon in the sky. Even if kindness extends a hand and offers a good deed, Hashimi will rise carrying it.
Muhammad Taha Al-Qaddal.

VIABILITY

Threats:

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Natural Resources used

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