CAMEROON
NOBLES AND SLAVES
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Mayo Rey, Rey Bouba. Aboubakary Abdoulaye, Lamido of Rey Bouba enters the palace back from the mosquee after celebrating the Eid-al-Kabir (or Tabaski, in Black Africa). During the ceremony the Muslims commemorate the willingness of Abraham to sacrifice his son to God by killing a sheep.

Four hours and some centuries separate North Cameroon from the Lamidat of Rey Bouba. 36.000 square kilometers of savannah where the Lamido is the absolute monarch, holding the right of life and death on his subjects. A state within the state, where the central power is both timid and accomplice at the same time.

Until the beginning of the 21st century, in Rey Bouba, the traditional and religious capital, there was no sign of modernity and people used to go to jail even for opening a gas station. After the old Lamido's death and the accession of Aboubakary Abdoulaye - the son who gave up the position of minister at Yaoundé parliament- to the throne, it is possible to perceive some signs of modernity. But the palace - with its harem, the slaves and the eunuchs- is still there invisible to prying eyes, but absolutely real as everyone swear.

Mayo Rey, Rey Bouba. Dogari (dignitaries of the government) rush at the call of the Lamido inside the palace of Rey Bouba.

Mayo Rey, Rey Bouba. The Dogari (dignitaries of the government) - part of the Fada, a sort of government of the Lamidat- having a meeting in Rey Bouba.

Mayo Rey, Rey Bouba. Knights at the court of Aboubakary Abdoulaye, Lamido of Rey Bouba during the celebrations for the Eid-al-Kabir (Tabaski in Black Africa) when the Muslims commemorate the willingness of Abraham to sacrifice his son to God by killing a sheep.

Mayo Rey, Rey Bouba. Aboubakary Abdoulaye, Lamido of Rey Bouba with the dogari (dignitaries of the government) sitting on the throne during the cerimony for the circumcision of the boys.

Mayo Rey, Rey Bouba. A group of griots (storytellers) praising the circumcised boys.

Mayo Rey, Rey Bouba. The boys who have just been circumcised gather in the square of the palace of Rey Bouba for the ending cerimony of their initiation.

Mayo Rey, Rey Bouba. Gueke and Nyagoko masks from the ethnies Mboum and Dourou, who followed the boys in the savannah for their initiation and circumcision, dance all the night and day of the ceremony to end the rite.

Mayo Rey, Rey Bouba. Percussionists beat the time during the ritual night dances for the parade of the circumcised boys.

Mayo Rey, Rey Bouba. After the circumcision ceremony, circumcised boys walk around in Rey Bouba dressed in their ceremony vests.

Mayo Rey, Rey Bouba. Kids fron the Koranic school in Rey Bouba.

Mayo Rey, Rey Bouba. A Peul Mbororo girl milking a cow in the fields nearby her house.

Mayo Rey, Rey Bouba. Boys from the Koranic school of Rey Bouba are punished because they have been caught using drugs.

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