

Nabra's Nubian Numbers

**a Nubian numbers book by Ramey Dawoud
illustrated by Hatim Eujayl**



Taras Press

This book is dedicated to those who are said to have sacrificed all that they had ever known for the sake of a nation that treats them as if they are unknown.

To those who were forced to sever ties with their land, heritage, and identity.

To those whose culture is treated as a commodity and a trend.

To those whose identity is more than a slogan, a banner, or a brand.

To my family members in Argeen, Serra, Ishkeit, Faras, Dibeira, and Wadi Halfa.

To all those people who lived the reality of taking that last ride away from the Nile River and looked back to witness everything they had ever known since the beginning of human civilization get swallowed up by the waters of the dam.

To my beloved family in Ballana, Fareig, Toshka, and the rest of the villages near Aswan who became distant neighbors due to a border created by those who wish to see us cease to exist.

This book is dedicated to all those who died, willingly and unwillingly, for their right to exist.

To those martyred in the Kajbar Massacre, the memory of watching on video as your bodies are carried away while my mother watched with tears in her eyes will forever be with me.

To the family of Nabra Hassanen, may Allah be pleased with her and may you find peace.

To all indigenous peoples everywhere in this world.

To all Nubians in the world.

In the words of the great Nubian musician, Kabosh: "eddi werangjana Nuba."

A note on the font

The Nubian text in this book is typeset in Sawarda, a font designed by the illustrator, and the first of its kind based on Old Nubian manuscripts and inscriptions from the 6th-15th century. An alpha version of the font is publicly available on the Union for Nubian Studies' website, and we hope to see many, many more fonts for this ancient script which draw directly from its unique written legacy, especially designed by the inheritors of that legacy, the modern Nubian people.



ΝΟΠΙΝ ΔΓΤ

Α pronounced like the "a" in "father" ἰ like the "y" in "yes"

Β like the "b" in "bat"

Κ like the "k" in "kid"

Γ like the "g" in "good"

Λ like the "l" in "lit"

Δ like the "d" in "dot"

Μ like the "m" in "me"

Ε like the "e" in "cafe"

Ν like the "n" in "no"

Ζ like the "z" in "zoo"

Ο like the "o" in "hole"

Ϊ like the "ee" in "feet"

οϋ like the "oo" in "boot"



The Nubian Alphabet

𐎁 like the "b" in "big," or like the "p" in "pat"

𐎂 like the "sh" in "short"

𐎃 like the "r" in "real"

𐎄 like the "h" in "hat"

𐎅 like the "s" in "sit"

𐎆 like the "j" in "jam"

𐎇 like the "t" in "tin"

𐎈 like the "ch" in "chat"

𐎉 like the "kh" in "Khalid"

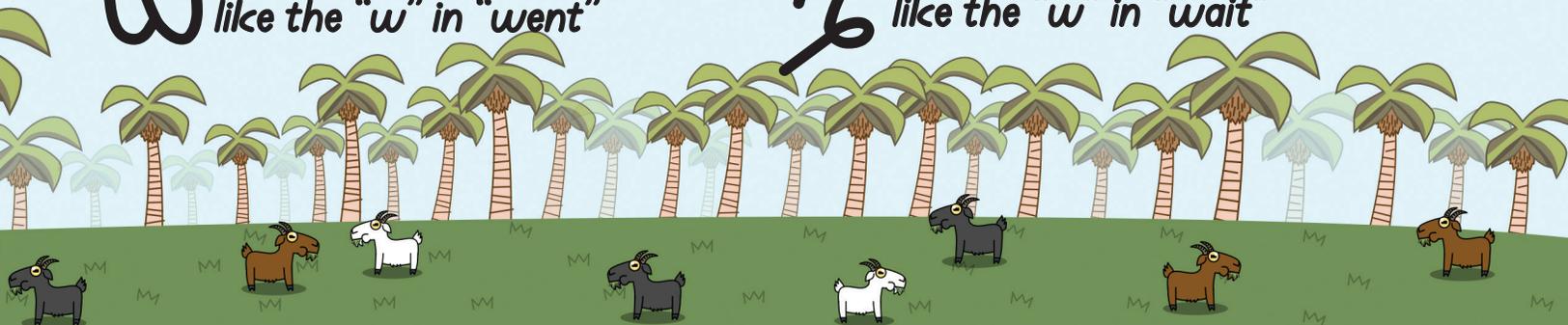
𐎊 like the "ng" in "sing"

𐎋 like the "f" in "fit"

𐎌 like the "ñ" in "año"

𐎍 like the "w" in "went"

𐎎 like the "w" in "wait"







1

ΠΑΠΙΑ ΟΛΛΑΖΙ ΟΥΛΟΥΜ ΨΕΡΑ

bābil ollahi ulum wēra

One crocodile hangs from the door.





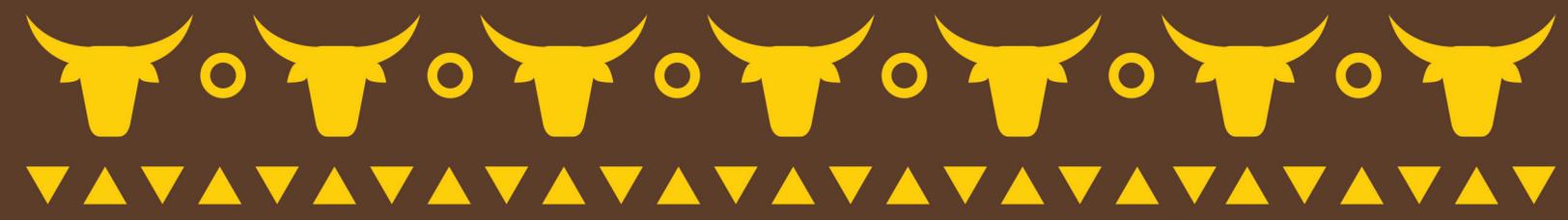


2

ἄ ὀ ὕ ὖ ὗ ὘ Ὑ ὚ Ὓ ὜ Ὕ ὞ Ὗ ὠ ὡ ὢ ὣ ὤ ὥ ὦ ὧ Ὠ ὰ ά ὲ έ ὴ ή ὶ ί ὸ ό ὺ ύ ὼ ώ ὾ ὿ ὰ ά ὲ έ ὴ ή ὶ ί ὸ ό ὺ ύ ὼ ώ ὾ ὿

tī **uwwi** eskalega tollinna

Two cows pull the waterwheel.







3

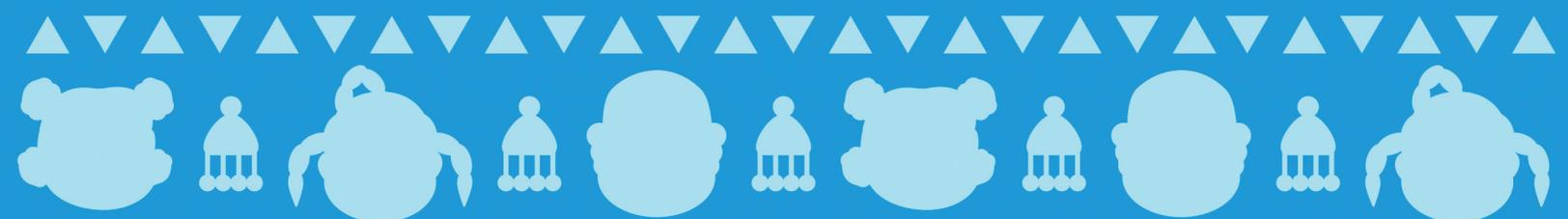
Δογε τουσκοј фентин ēн коккиа мејдинна

doge tuskoј fentin ēн kokkil meñjinna

Three birds perch on the palm tree.







4

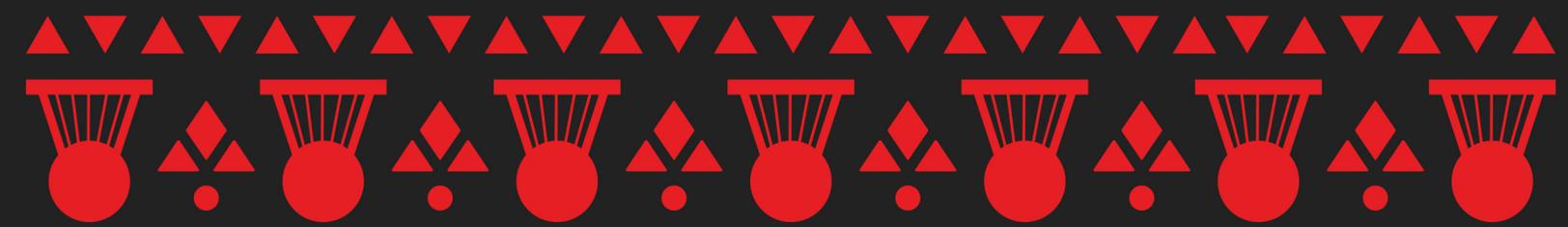
ΔΕΣΑΡ ΚΕΜΣΟΪ ΨΙΠΙΡ ΨΙΠΡΕΕΕ ΔΓ ΠΑΤΑΡΙΝΝΑ

assar kemsoy shibir shibrēngng āg batarinna

Four kids play shibr shibrēn.





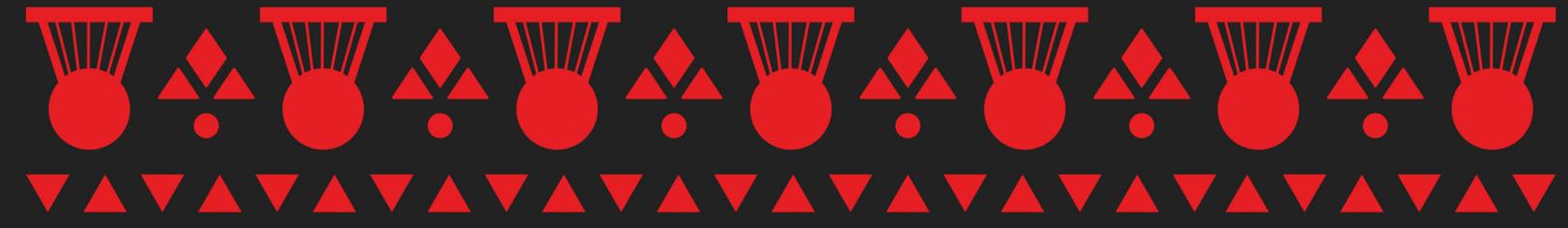


5

ΚΙΣΙΡΙ ΣΙΛΙΚ ΔΙΔΑ ΚΟΥΝΙ

kisiri silik **dija** kuni

The kisir has **five** strings.





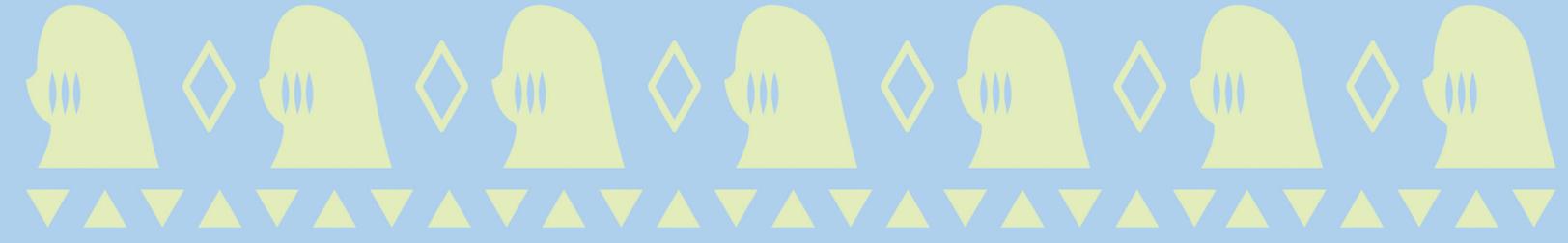


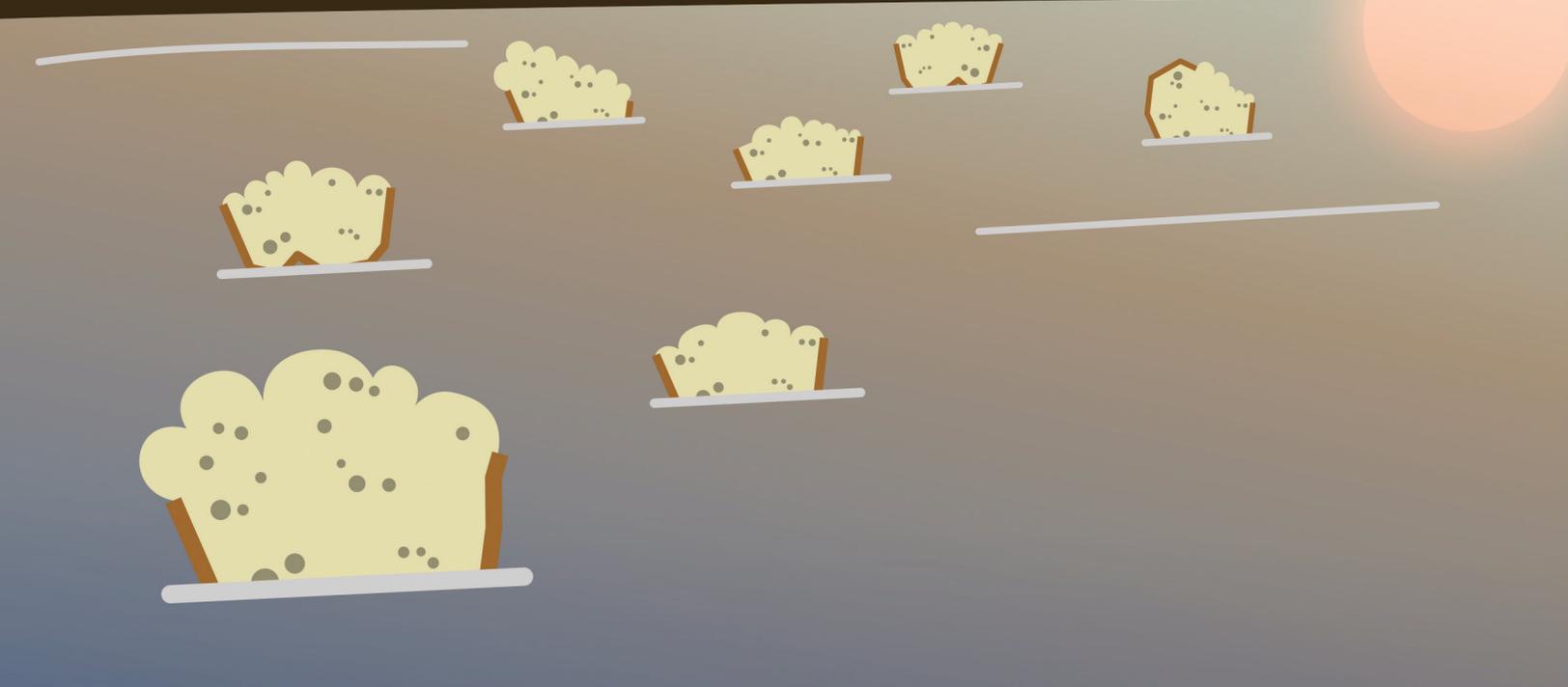
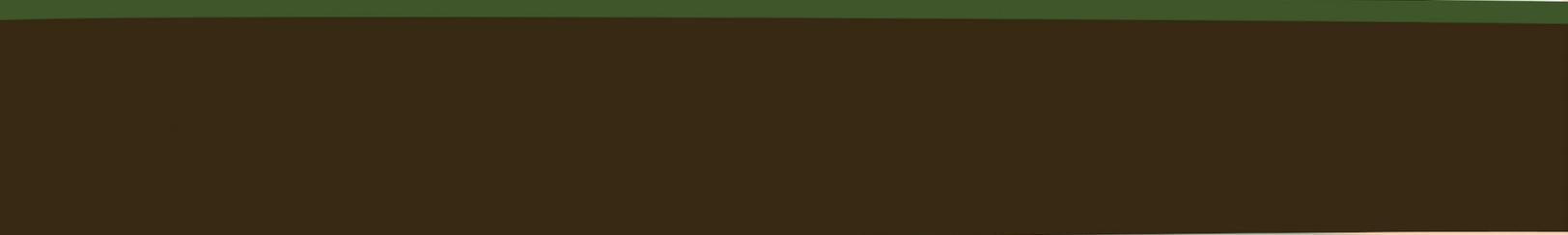
6

ANNĀṬI ṠHULŪKH GORJOG KUNI

annāwi shulūkh gorjog kuni

Grandma has **six** shilookh.





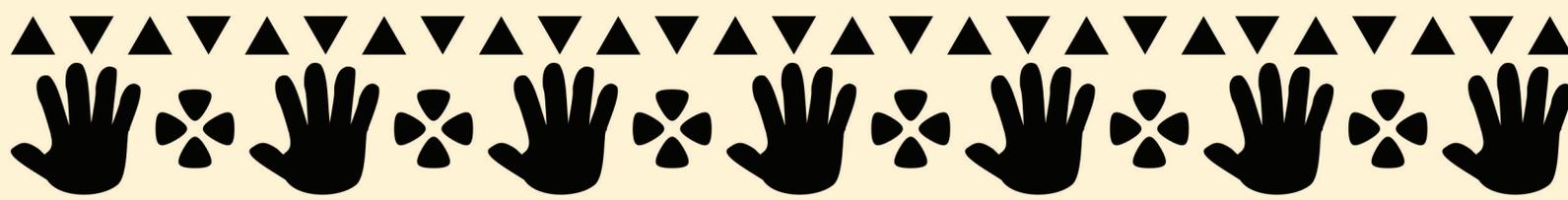
7

ΚΑΠΑΝ ΚΙΧΧΑΔ ΚΟΛΟΔΤΑ ΝΙΛΛΑ ΚΑΔ ΟΔΙΝΝΑ

kaban kichchād kolodta nīlla kad odinna

Seven pieces of bread were thrown into the Nile.





8

εδδι ιδϋοι κοφδρεγ ουκικιρικαγινναν

eddi idwoy kofareg ukkirkaginnan

Eight hands have henna on them.







9

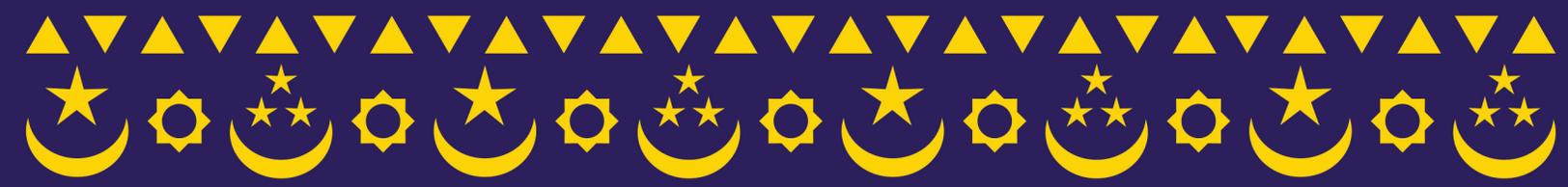
ΙΔ ΟΣΚΟΔΙ ΑΡΑΓΙΔΤΑ ΑΓ ΑΡΓΙΝΝΑ

id **oskodi** aragidta āg arginna

Nine people dance aragīd.





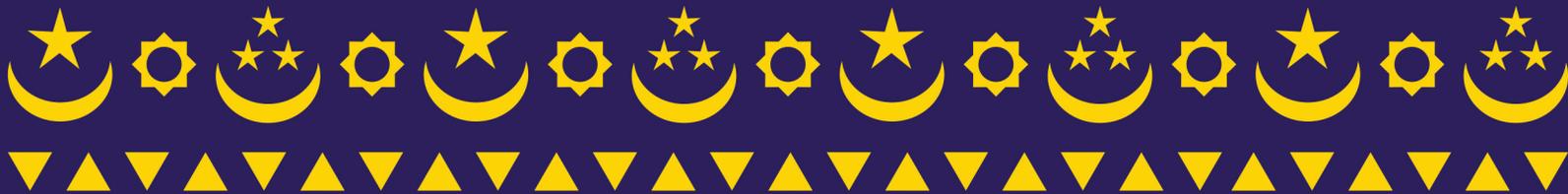


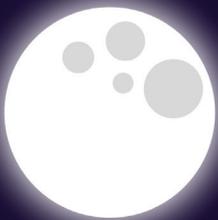
10

ΝΑΠΡΑΪΙ ΨΙΥΔΙ ΔΙΜΕΓ ΑΓ ΟΜΙ

nabrayi wiñji dimeg āg ōmi

Nabra counts ten stars.





ΙΡΡΙΝΑ?



1 - ΟΥΛΟΥΜ

Nubians traditionally hang a taxidermied crocodile over the entrance to their homes to protect against the evil eye (gaze of envious people), traditionally believed by many in the region to bring bad luck.



2 - ΕΣΚΑΛΕ

The eskale ("waterwheel" in English) is an ancient irrigation technique. Pulled by bulls or oxen, the eskale is featured in many Nubian proverbs and poems, and is often seen as a symbol of the traditional Nubian lifestyle.



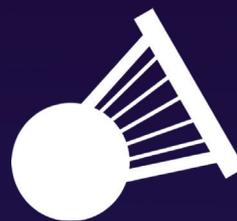
3 - ΓΑΛΛΟΚΑΠ

The gallokab (Hoopoe bird) is an animal commonly found throughout Nubia. It is known by many different names, including "Sāsūr Abu Sulēman," meaning "Solomon's sparrow," as the bird is associated with the Prophet Solomon in Islam.



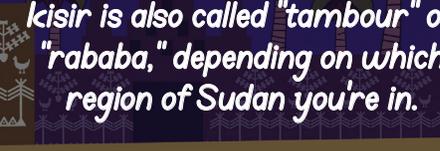
4 - ΨΙΡΙΡ ΨΙΡΡΕΝ

This is a kids' game where two players sit on the ground, foot to foot, while another player runs and tries to jump over their feet. Next round, the players on the ground connect their other feet, then their hands, making each round more difficult.



5 - ΚΙΣΙΡ

The "kisir" is a string instrument similar to the lyre. Along with the Tar drum, the kisir is the instrument of choice in traditional Nubian music. The kisir is also called "tambour" or "rababa," depending on which region of Sudan you're in.



Did you know?



6 - ψουλοῦχ

Facial scarification, or "shuluulch", is a tradition which can be found in many parts of Africa, although it is becoming increasingly less common with the younger Nubians. The style of scars differs between ethnic groups and tribes.



7 - σουπῶ

The "subuu" ("seven") custom celebrates when a child turns one week old. During subuu, the baby is taken to the Nile, where their face is washed while people make prayers of protection. 7 pieces of food are then thrown into the Nile as people celebrate the newborn.



8 - κοφφῶρε

Known as "henna" in English, is one of the most ancient and well-known Nubian practices still thriving to this day. Henna is applied to the hands and feet during weddings and special occasions. Nubian elderly women are known for using henna to dye their hair bright red.



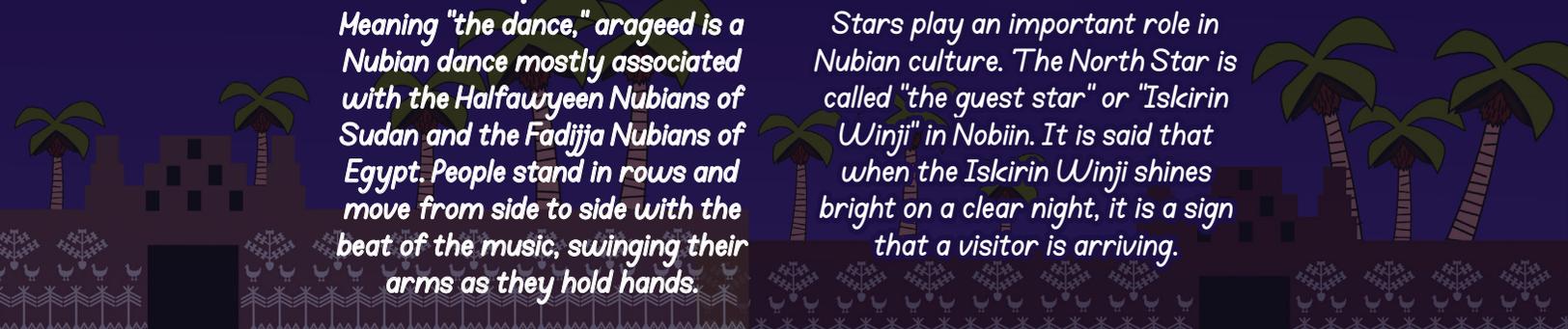
9 - ἀραγῖΔ

Meaning "the dance," arageed is a Nubian dance mostly associated with the Halfawyeen Nubians of Sudan and the Fadijja Nubians of Egypt. People stand in rows and move from side to side with the beat of the music, swinging their arms as they hold hands.



10 - Ἰσκιριν

Stars play an important role in Nubian culture. The North Star is called "the guest star" or "Iskirin Winji" in Nobiin. It is said that when the Iskirin Winji shines bright on a clear night, it is a sign that a visitor is arriving.





οι αριθμοί

1 - ἓξ: one

2 - δύο: two

3 - τρεῖς: three

4 - τέσσερις: four

5 - πέντε: five

6 - ἕξι: six

7 - ἑπτὰ: seven

8 - ὀκτώ: eight

9 - ἑννέα: nine

10 - δέκα: ten

20 - εἴκοσι: twenty

30 - τριάντα: thirty

40 - ἡρῆμι: forty

50 - ἡμισία: fifty



Numbers

60 - ἄρκορο: *sixty*

70 - ἄρκοροΔΔ: *seventy*

80 - ἄρκοροϞο: *eighty*

90 - ἄρκοροΔΔ: *ninety*

100 - ἰμιο: *one hundred*

200 - ἰμιο ογϞο: *two hundred*

300 - ἰμιο τογκο: *three hundred*

400 - ἰμιο κεμκο: *four hundred*

500 - ἰμιο Δἰδα: *five hundred*

600 - ἰμιο γορο: *six hundred*

700 - ἰμιο κοροΔΔ: *seven hundred*

800 - ἰμιο ἰΔϞο: *eight hundred*

900 - ἰμιο οκοΔΔ: *nine hundred*

1000 - Δοῦρε: *one thousand*

About the author

Ramey Dawoud's family originates from the village of Argeen in Wadi Halfa, Sudan. They later moved to Egypt, where Ramey was born in the city of Alexandria on 19 September, 1990 in the town of Sidi Bishr. He describes his life in Egypt as "beauty intertwined with ugliness". It was a place he felt attached to due to it being his place of birth, but it also a place where he was made to feel unwelcome. "Slave", "servant", and "door man" were common words he and other Nubians often heard.

In September, 1999, at nine years old, he would once again change worlds when his family immigrated to Wyandotte, Kansas City, Kansas in the USA as political refugees. He lived next to an abandoned house on Parallel Avenue, where he and his brothers would sneak in to explore during the day. In 2001, the Dawoud family moved across the state line to Kansas City, Missouri.

Ramey attended Maple Park Middle School, and at 12 years old, he wrote his first rap and co-created a group that would eventually become the duo known as "The Ambassadors". At Winnetonka High School, Ramey continued to play basketball and studied



theatre. It was during this time that he began to read about Nubia. Ramey combined his newly found knowledge of his background along with his love for hiphop and began recording songs in his parents' basement.

After graduating from high school, Ramey continued his Hip-Hop journey; recording mixtapes and performing at events. In 2012, Ramey Dawoud won Best New Artist at the KC Entertainment Awards. That same year he made his film acting debut as "Faisal" in the award winning short, "Faisal Goes West". Since then, Ramey Dawoud has released a number of music projects including "Kashta" and "I Am Because We Are".

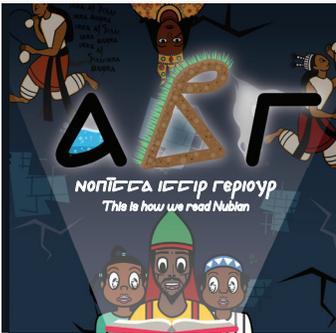
Ramey married Ola Labib in 2019 and they currently reside in the UK.

More from Geri Fāi Ōmir



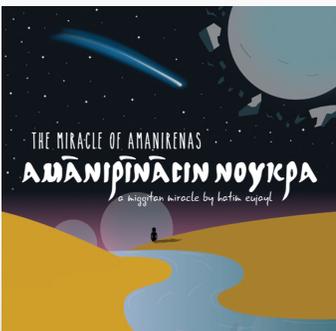
Sisters of the Water by K. Eltinaé

Zannooba, a young girl, comes across three cowrie shells by chance near the Red Sea, which magically transform into 3 wise mermaids who take her on unforgettable adventures through time and across the Nile Valley to better understand her heritage and place in the universe.



ΔΒΓ: This is how we read Nubian by Hatim Eujayl

Come along with siblings Appa and Khalil as they learn how to read the alphabet that has been used to write Nubian for centuries, with the help of the ancient Nubian scribe, Yosefi. This book makes learning to read Nubian accessible for everyone, using the vocabulary of the Nubian languages that are spoken today.



The Miracle of Amanirenas by Hatim Eujayl

Set in a Nubia-inspired fantasy world, *The Miracle of Amanirenas* is a bilingual Nubian and English story of the founding of the Kingdom of Miggi, in which the Miggitan people look for a way to cope with (and ultimately resist) the tyranny of the Loman emperor with the help of a magical queen.

