

“O Thunder”

El Oualid Mimoun

Translated by Mohamed Daoudi and proofread by

“A yajjaj,” from the collection: *Zi radjay n tmurt ya ruεra n-ujenna* (From the Innermost Depths of the Earth to the Heights of the Sky), p. 10.

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A yajjaj	O thunder
<p>El Oualid Mimoun</p> <p>Bnat tiqesfin-nwem x-iεurar-nney d-imettawen-nney s-tidi-nney</p> <p>a yajjaj yennej nqerbent a remwaj nqerεent ah a yasemmid ah a yasinu mani tedjid a yur-inu nec war djiy nec ttiri nec aq ariy hedd wa yetwiri</p> <p>yzet inedrawen tarren-d car macca ismawen kucci iddar neccin d rejruf eyya ma tneqcem neccin d ruruf eyya ma atreqdem</p> <p>tanewwact Teqdu εejnen xas tqubeht (3) war tesdu hawn-as(4) min yas d-asdu (5) tfukt teyri tejmeε ifiran tadjest turi uyin yitran innuarzem yisri ruhuc n yifran ssufyen-d iri a yewdan ndet barra i-wendra qa wearn ssabet (6) ruhuc n-rexra zemmet rqamet (7) tetsemt x-izra a yajjaj yennej</p>	<p>El Oualid Mimoun</p> <p>Build your mansions on the back of the downtrodden. Build them with our tears. Build them with our sweat.</p> <p>Sing, O thunder. Roll, O waves of the sea. Rip yourselves apart from the depths of the ocean O wind, O clouds! Where are you, soul of mine? I am no more, I am only a shadow; I am raging, yet nobody sees me.</p> <p>You can dig graves, then cover them over again. But all the names will always remain. We are rocky cliffs, and all your tilling will be in vain We are in the thousands, no matter how many you reap.</p> <p>The hut was torn down, and trampled on. The lark’s fledglings will fly no more, for they have been stolen all. The sun has faded and gathered its beams. Darkness has fallen, and the stars have begun to shine. The gate of the cave has come ajar, and let the beasts loose. O people, protect the threshing ground for the beasts of the wild have stolen the crop; or you shall starve, and lie helpless on rocks. Sing, O thunder.</p>

El Oualid Mimoun is considered today a key figure in the history of Riffian music and poetry. He was born in Ait Sidel in the region of Nador (1959). He studied philosophy at the University of Fes. His albums are today among the most popular in the Rif. His first album, *"Thunder"* (Ajjaj) came out in 1980, but was banned afterwards because of its powerful political message. He has two other albums: *"The Vagabond"* (Amtluε) in 1986, and *"The Fog"* (Thayyuth) in 1997. In 1991, he moved to the Netherlands where he published his poetry collection *"From the Innermost Depths of the Earth to the Heights of the Sky"* (zi radjaγ n tmurt γa ruεra n-ujenna) which includes some of the poems he sang in earlier albums. In 1996, he published his short story collection *"The Swallows"* (Thifadjas). El Oualid Mimoun currently lives in the Netherlands.