

Ahcene MARICHE

The Spinning Top and
the Ladder

Poetry



Translated from Kabyle into English by:
Camèlia Ben Mammarr

Editions
ArtPlume

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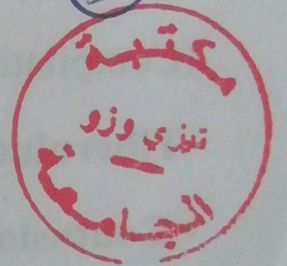
**The Spinning Top And
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ISBN: 978-9931-9308-2-2



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PREFACE

Ahcene MARICHE is a Kabyle poet who was born in Tizi Rached in 1967. His first experience in writing goes back to 1984. He is a teacher of physics, cameraman and actor in the film *Wardya N13* under the same name Da Ahcene and carried out a documentary film on the great singer Kheddoum Sherif. He also works as a journalist in a web newspaper. He is from an artistic family and his main references are Si Muhend U Mhend, Ait Menguellat, Slimane Azem, Rudyard Kipling and many others. Most of all, he is the first Algerian author whose poems are translated into foreign languages and the sole poet who permits all the categories of people even the illiterate to have access to his poetry through CD audios and video clips.

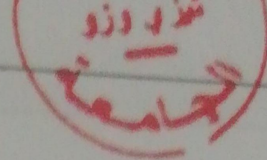
It is once said that "painting is silent poetry and poetry is painting that speaks". This is the case for Ahcene whose verses echo his feelings. In our turn, we feel his power through his sweet stanzas. The latter are intoned by the singers Idir Bellali, Ramdane Mechache, Aldjia, Feroudja, Boualem Zeraoui, Malek Kazeoui. It is also introduced into the theater by the playwright Samy Allam in his monologue *Urgagh Mmuthegh (I Dreamed I was Dead)*. Moreover, these particular verses are reproduced in tables of painting by the artists Saliha Khelifi, Nordine Zekara, Ali Lamhen, Ali Makour and Kamel Bekhtaoui. This particular poet is now well-known throughout the world. His poetry is available on web sites and different bookshops. National and international press are also interested in his publications and try to discover what is hidden inside that painstaking gentleman.

What lacks a poet like Ahcene MARICHE is not the international recognition but much more national consideration. Though he is admired by many readers in his own country, he does not receive all his rights as an artist. In fact, many artists still suffer from the same problem; therefore, their competences remain covered. However, MARICHE is wiser enough to confront this hypocritical world. He finances most of his works by his own income because he considers culture as one of the life's priorities.

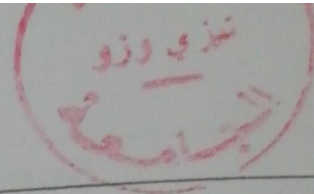
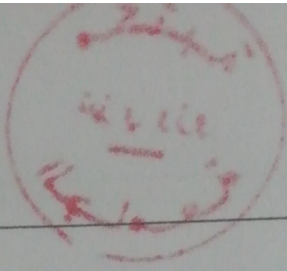
The power of his poetry consists in creativity, the fact that permits him to reach universality in a short period of time. Each year, he gives birth to at least one work. He is active and ambitious with a golden heart. If you taste his cocktail, you will certainly quench your thirst since it is very varied. He wrote about love, destiny, happiness and life issues in general. As a defender of nature and the environment he wrote a long poem on this subject; he draws an alarm bell on degradation of our surroundings. Furthermore, he explores the psyches to explain some behaviors and expresses openly his anger about laziness that he considers as an illness and a threat for the society.

The Spinning Top and the Ladder is composed of 44 poems first published in Kabyle in 2009 entitled *Tibernint d Ssellum*. After having been translated into French by Amziane Lounes and prefaced by the French poet Roland Lecoigny, these poems are translated again into English by a brilliant English teacher, Miss Ben Mammar Camélia. The latter herself asserted that she is not only translating but also adapting and reporting Ahcene's feelings and emotions for people throughout the world. In fact, she succeeds to a high extent to put into words Ahcene's thoughts through her own

Summary



Numbers	Titles	page
-	Preface by Bedrani Ghalia	
01	Icicles	11
02	The turn	13
03	Environnement	15
04	The bet of the wind and the sun	18
05	My bed is made of nettle	20
06	The hope is groaning	22
07	The kabyle's tragedy	23
08	Experiences	26
09	El Belj	28
10	Where I live.....	31
11	The scarcity walk	33
12	A word escaped me ..	35
13	I believed	37
14	The enemy owns an attic	40
15	Poetry	42
16	The wind	44
17	Man is a balloon	46
18	Your eyes look for me	47
19	The cage and the rope	49
20	The destiny	50
21	The news	52
22	The marsh of love	53
23	The fire of love	54
24	The heart and the mind	55
25	Let's clear things up !	56
26	Day and Night	58
27	The vain things	60
28	The script of my life	61
29	Life is a fight	62



30	Love is as a mountain	64
31	The mirror of my heart	66
32	Misfortune and enjoyment..	68
33	The door	69
34	What we cannot hide !	71
35	Wish and Reason	73
36	The mind is my guarantee	75
37	Without labour	77
38	The confirmed bachelor	78
39	As long as..	80
40	What is it ...	82
41	The grain that we despise	84
42	Happiness	86
43	Ttruth and Lie	88
44	My beloved	89
-	Copyrights and contacts	91



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"The Spinning Top and the Ladder" is composed of 44 poems first published in Kabyle in 2009 entitled *Tibernint d Ssellum* by the poet Ahcene MARICHE. After having been translated into French by Ameziane Lounes, these poems are translated again into English by a brilliant English teacher, Miss Ben Mammam Camélia.

"Ahcene Mariche is first, my great friend, a confident, an older brother and a wise man of great spirit with a big heart. In my opinion, he is a great icon of contemporary Kabyle poetry, as elsewhere, with whom I have learned a lot. I had the privilege of translating with great pleasure indeed, one of his collections of 44 poems called "the spinning top and the ladder". The work in question affects on about all the subjects that torment people in everyday life such as love, money, friendship ... and then we must not forget that Ahcene proclaims himself as a defender and an activist of the environment, the nature that surrounds us, which is worthy of respect and protection in order to admire it in all its beauty! Ahcene, a sensitive man who, without hesitation also speaks in his poems about women; their beauty, their charm with love and passion.

Ahcene is the poet I admire a lot. He has earned our respect for his bravery, his will, his passion and his kindness. A handsome man who does not hesitate to make us laugh, and guide us to forget the stresses of daily life. A man who is not afraid to encourage family and friends to move forward, to persevere in the work. With Ahcene, I was able to finish my work as a translator. It was a challenge; I put all my will, my confidence and all my love for the Berber poetry. With Ahcene, I was able to discover in me the ability to be able to weave words to write poetry, and finally, a poem in which we learn life lessons. With my poet friend I was living a great adventure; I was able to travel through his poetry, through his ideas. An adventure that I will not hesitate to repeat."

Ben mammam Camélia

