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Gassire s lute

Gassire's lute theme. Gassire's lute quotes.

(Djerma, Soninke/Burkina Faso, Gambia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal)In early times, Wagadu faced north and was called Dierra. The last king was Nganamba Fasa, and his strength grew as he fought the Burdama and Boroma. But now he was old and his heroes were old. His son was Gassire, a mythic hero. Nganamba grew so old that Wagadu was lost. But he did not die, and a jackal therefore gnawed at Gassire's heart. He daily watched for his father's death. He fought as a hero against the Burdama and Boroma. He heard his deeds praised, but he was miserable as he listened to the strains of Nganamba's breathing: Gassire wanted his father's sword and shield, and his longing grew. Then a wise man told Gassire that his father would die but Gassire would not get his sword and shield. Others would inherit those; Gassire would get a lute, and that lute would cause the loss of Wagadu. Gassire called the wise man a liar. The next day, he did battle with the Burdama alone, telling the other heroes to remain behind. His sword was like a sickle, and the enemy feared him, and fled. The other heroes gathered the spears of the vanquished Burdama, and sang Gassire's praise; never before had Wagadu won so many spears. Women bathed him, men sang his praise. He went to the fields and heard the partridges. A partridge told of its battle with a snake. All will die, it sang, but the Dausi, the song of its battles, would not die, it would outlive all kings and heroes.



Gassire went back to the wise old man: Do men also know the Dausi, and can the Dausi outlive life and death? The old man said, You are hastening to your end. And since you cannot be a king you shall be a bard. Because Gassire cannot be the second of the first rank (i.e., the king), he shall be the first of the second rank. And Wagadu will be lost because of it. Gassire had a smith make him a lute. The smith said he would make the lute but the lute would not sing. Gassire told the smith to do his work and "the rest is my affair." When Gassire struck the lute, it would not sing. The smith said that Gassire had to give the piece of wood a heart. "Carry it into battle, let the wood absorb blood, your pain must be its pain, your fame its fame." The wood must be penetrated by and be a part of Gassire's people. But, he said, Wagadu will be lost because of it. Gassire took his eight sons into battle. His eldest son was killed, and as Gassire carried his body back the blood of the youth dropped on the lute that Gassire also carried on his back. Still, the lute did not sing. He rode into battle again, for seven days, each day carrying back one of his dead sons, and the blood dropped on the lute, blood flowed everywhere, the women wailed, the men were angry, the old wise man said that Wagadu would be lost for the first time. With his last son, Gassire went into the desert. Many heroes rode with him. Deep in the desert, at night, a restive Gassire heard a voice: the lute was singing the Dausi. When it sang the Dausi the first time, King Nganamba died, Gassire's rage melted, and Wagadu for the first time disappeared. See: page 280. [...] Journal article Gassire's Lute: A Reconstruction of Soninke Bardic Art Alta Jablow Research in African Literatures Vol. 15, No. 4, Special Issue on Oral Poetry and Song (Winter, 1984), pp. 519-529 (11 pages) Published By: Indiana University Press This is a preview. Log in through your library. Preview Journal Information Publisher Information Indiana University Press was founded in 1950 and is today recognized internationally as a leading academic publisher specializing in the humanities and social sciences. As an academic press, our mandate is to serve the world of scholarship and culture as a professional, not-for-profit publisher. We publish books and journals that will matter 20 or even a hundred years from now - titles that make a difference today and will live on into the future through their reverberations in the minds of teachers and writers. 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But it can be read and enjoyed simply as a beautiful and exciting story that shows clearly the universality of art and of human experience. The Waveland reprint includes an essay by the translator (The Origin of Soninke Bardic Art), which is meant to provide pertinent information for understanding and enjoying the poem. Gassire's lute tells the story of Gassire, an arrogant warrior obsessed with everlasting fame and immortality. He gave up everything to gain immortality through the Dausi, a song that would allow his exploits to live forever. During the story Wagadu rose four times once through vanity. Once through dishonesty. Once through greed. Once through discord. The city was full of human sufferings. Wagadu's "children" suffered from the ill-treatment. The first time Wagadu disappeared was the vanity of the ruling elites. Life that was not free from desire and passion, was always involved with distress. If desire is what lies at the root of all human passion could be removed, then passion would die out and all human suffering would had ended. The first disappearance could be avoided. Gassire wanted to inherit the Fasa kingdom and wished for the old man to die, which happened to be King Nganamba, Gassire's father. So he goes out to the wisest man in the Fasa kingdom, and asked when the king would die and when he would become king. The wise man told Gassire that he would never get his father's shield and sword, that he was destined to carry a lute. Gassire was outraged, but the wise man shrugged and said, "Your path in life is not that of a king, or hero. When you hear the music in the field you will understand the nature of your journey." Each day, when Gassire took one of his sons to battle and each one was killed, seven of them in total. The Fasa people began to realize the he didn't care for his sons and he was choosing fame over life. And they no longer praised him which made him an outcast in his own kingdom. One night while camping out, Gassire couldn't sleep. So he decided plucked the strings, the lute began to play a beautiful battle song. At the same moment his father passed away. 98198101523.pdf The lute began to play again and this time all of Gassire's anger dissipated and he wept with both grief and joy. The song that he sang and the music that he played were the most beautiful things ever. The guilt was for his dead sons and father the only happiness he felt at the moment was that he would be remembered for his battle song and his heroic deeds. My analysis: Gassire was like Gilgamesh he was a 'bad' hero who had a selfish quest to be immortal. He never finished his queste but he learned that he was just a human. gisegarilidaseb.pdf And that Gassire like all of us realized we are all who we are, and that we need to accept our flaws but shouldn't let them stop us from having goals or dreams.