LITTLE IMRAN

Chapter one

Introduction

Ina kwana (good morning) baba Imran said to his father as he picked up his stick to lead the cattles our to graze, he just finishing having a lovely plate of weina also known as masa with delicious groundnut soup that follows it.

Imran was the first child of Abdul and Zainab. Imran has two sisters both becoming of age to get married as it was tradition for them to get married at age 13, Ummi was 14yrs while Amina was 12, oh of course Imran was 10.

The sun was out as usual, “it will be hot today” said Abdul as he instructed Imran to take his hat and water bottle along.

They were from the sokoto caliphate. It was 9am, Imran already left the house (hut). The girls Ummi and Aisha along side their mum were preparing the milk (nunu) collected from the cows the day before. They will take it to the market square later in the afternoon to sell.

Toh hajiya sai anjima (okay see you later) said Abdul to his wife Zainab. It was a great day Abdul was a clothe merchant who buys clothes from Kano and resells them in sokoto he left cheerfully as it was market day and he would be expecting a great visitor later in the day.

Hah Zainab bring the food now Abdul scolds Zainab his guest was around. The just finished praying it’s was 7:15pm.

Haba Abdul stop shouting at her like that now said Mustafa Abdul’s father he had come to visit and see his grand children Abdul was the first son of his father. His father had 49 children from 5 wives Abduls mother Aishat was the 2nd wife of Mustafa.

Toh gashi said Zainab as she brought the tuwan chinkafa (rice lump) and mian kuka soup that’s their favorite traditional food. Imran was served next after his father and grand father. They were all seated outside the huts the females segregated themselves from males it’s was just a norm.

After eating, Mustafa called the children round as it was time for strong telling

Tonight I would tell you the history of the Hausas.

Chapter 2

History of the hausas

In the 9th century said Mustafa, a set kingdoms emerged in Northern Nigeria to replace the Kabara Nation, these Kingdoms share a similar ethno-historical dynamic cemented in their belief in a common origin. The lore of the Fourteen Kingdoms unify the diverse heritage of Northern Nigeria into a cohesive system. Seven of these Kingdoms developed from the Kabara legacy of the Hausa people. As vibrant trading centers competing with Kanem-Bornu and Mali slowly developed in the Central Sudan, a set Kingdoms merged dominating the great savannah plains of Hausaland, their primary exports were leather, gold, cloth, salt, kola nuts, animal hides, and henna. The Seven Hausa states included:

* Daura
* Kano
* Katsina
* Zazzau
* Gobir
* Rano
* Biram

The growth and conquest of the Hausa Bakwai resulted in the founding of additional states with rulers tracing their lineage to a concubine of the Hausa founding father, Bayajidda. Thus they are called the 'Banza Bakwai meaning Bastard Seven. The Banza Bakwai adopted many of the customs and institutions of the Hausa Bakwai but were considered unsanctioned or copy-cat kingdoms by non-Hausa people. These states include:

* Zamfara
* Kebbi
* Yauri (also called Yawuri)
* Gwari (also called Gwariland)
* Kwararafa (a Jukun state)
* Nupe (of the Nupe people)
* Llorin (A yoruba State also known as Kwara)

Let me tell you one secret Mustafa said your great great grand father Aminu was a very rich and big man he made sure he married from all the Kano state he had 38 wives and 115 children my own father Dantata was his 67th child and son of the 5th wife Hajarah. He was so rich that he couldn’t keep count of his cattles about 1589 descendant emerged from him.

Grandfather please how do you people eat those days with the number of children asked Imran that’s true agreed Ummi and Aisha. When they finish cooking they women served us in trays big trays there was enough to go round so you just look for a comfortable place to sit eat and enjoy.

Everyone laughed, okay that’s enough for tonight we will continue tomorrow. Good night said Mustafa as the all went to their various hut to sleep...

Chapter 3

The marriage plan

It was 11am in the morning the girls are out to sell nunu (milk) with their mother... Imran left an hour earlier. It was Mustafa and Abdul that were left in the house.

My son the main reason I came to visit is to tell you that it is time to get a new wife said Mustafa I don’t know why you haven’t Abdul some of your brothers are having 2-3 wives and you are just here with one you are my first son you are rich you have cattles you have farmlands that you pay people to take care of for you. Gaskiya (truly) it is time to get a new wife. Toh Baba said Abdul I can’t refuse or disobey you but I need more time and I love my wife she is okay for me, kai kai Mustafa interrupted let’s not go back and forth with this.

Alhaji Ibrahim’s daughter is ready to marry and I already told him you will like to marry his daughter so get dressed we are going to his house to see him. Toh baba answered Abdul.

Later in the evening that day:

salaam alaikum (peace be upon you) said Mustafa and Abdul to Zainab wa ʿalaykumu s-salām (and peace be upon you too) answered Zainab. Zainab well I want to tell you to prepare yourself your husband is getting a new wife. We have gone to Alhaji Ibrahim to ask for his daughter hands in marriage he agreed and tomorrow we would pay all necessary dowry so the event can continue. Hah no problem I am ready I would make preparations with my friends too it is a good thing said Zainab.

Now it was story time

Chapter four

The sokoto caliphate

Today I would tell you about my father Usman, Mustafa said as he smiled and made himself comfortable on the mat.

In the 19th Century the fula peoples led a series of jihads across sudanic Africa. In Northern Nigeria and the central Sudan, Usuman dan Fodio led the Fula in a bid to overthrow the Hausa Sultanates. By 1803, a new state known as the Sokoto Caliphate had replaced most of the former sultanates that had held sway over the region. The Sokoto Caliphate was under the overall authority of the Commander of the Faithful. Under Dan Fodio, the Empire was bicephalous and divided into two territories each controlled by an appointed vizier. Each of the territories was further divided into autonomous Emirates under mainly hereditary local Emirs. The Bornu Empire was initially absorbed into the Sokoto Caliphate of Usman dan Fodio, but broke away after a few years later.

Imran shouted wow grandpa, so great grand father was a warrior? yes he was and he was very rich and respected amongst everyone in sokoto Mustafa answered.

Well that where I think I would stop tonight I think we should all go to bed tomorrow is a busy day for us all.

Good night (everyone exchanged pleasantries)

Chapter 5

The wedding

The events follow a week after very fast as Abdul weds Ferida

The following were the events that took place

**1. Kayan Zance**

This is the list of items the groom’s family provides as soon as the bride’s family accepts their wedding proposal.

The list of items includes but is not limited to cookware, furniture, fabrics beauty products, shoes, underwear, cash (Kudin Gaisuwa)

If the groom’s family is rich enough, they may be asked to provide a house for the couple while the bride’s family has full responsibility of furnishing the house, especially her room, living room and the kitchen. All these are done before the wedding proper

**2. Wedding Fatiha [Daurin Aure]**

The Fatiha is the most significant event of the entire wedding ceremony.

As opposed to what obtains in many other cultures, in the Hausa culture it is a representative from the groom and bride’s family usually does exchange of vows and not the bride and groom.

They do this in the presence of a religious priest and wedding guests. Prayers are then offered to the newly wedded couple and celebration continues.

**3. Wuni [Sa lalle]**

The event is strictly for the ladies. This is when the bride gets to spend the last bit of free time with her friends and female members of her family, in her father’s house.

A mixture of henna is made and used to make beautifully designs on the bride’s hands, palms and legs. Her friends and family also get henna designs on their hands but not as elaborate as the bride.

**4. Kamun Amariya**

Kamu means catch the brides and it is one of the oldest and most interesting events in the Hausa wedding tradition.

To get the bride, the groom’s family negotiates with the bride’s friends for her release her to them.

This is a really fun event and negotiation may take up to 30 minutes followed by a fun reception.

**5. Sayan Baki**

In some parts of the north, this ceremony takes place to add more colour and glamour to the wedding ceremony.

The Sayan Baki is a negotiation between the groom’s men and the bridesmaids, debating on the amount to be paid before the bride is allowed to speak to her groom.

**6. Kai Amariya**

This is when family and friends escort the bride to her matrimonial home to be well received by the groom’s family.

This is usually preceded by prayers and advises from her family. This is not the end of events in the Hausa cultural marriage.

Depending on how well to do the families are, there is usually a grand reception to end the entire wedding ceremony. This includes, food, music and entertainment.

That evening was a fun filled one for everyone including the children as they ate and ate and they were all happy that a new wife was joining them in the compound.

Chapter 6

Colonial period

This family were protected because of their history with usman. They were part of the rich and famous people.

The Initial contact of Northern Nigeria with the British was predominantly trade-related, and revolved around the expansion of the Royal Niger Company, whose interior territories spread north from about where the Niger River and Benue River joined at Lokoja, a place called ([Mount Patti](file:////wiki/Mount_Patti) Hill). The Royal Niger Company's territory did not represent a direct threat to much the Sokoto Caliphate or the numerous states of Northern Nigeria. This changed, when Fredrick Lugard and Taubman Goldie laid down an ambitious plan to pacify the Niger interior and unite it with the rest of the British Empire in 1897 Lugard proclaimed a protectorate over Northern Nigeria and hostilities though sporadic soon followed; the Calipharte itself never responded to Lugards onslaught, this allowed him pacify the Emirates one by one. In February 1903, the fort of Kano fell and its slave market closed, sokoto and other regions soon followed. By the early 1920s the last pockets of resistance located in the Kanem had been pacified.

From 1914 to 1953, the much larger Northern Nigeria was amalgamated with the Nigerian South in the [Colony and Protectorate of Nigeria](file:////wiki/Colony_and_Protectorate_of_Nigeria), and its administration was virtually controlled from the South. During this period, local government was administered by a string of Lieutenant Governors and Chief Commissioners. In the 1940s agitation for Northernisation led to the Richards and eventually to the Macpherson constitution of 1953, which granted exceptional self-governing powers (including in the areas of foreign policy, customs and border control) to the North.

Chapter 7

Independence

28 years later our small Imran became a leader, Imran had fled from his father when he turned 15 after his father married 3 more wives and his mother died he left home in search of new opportunities he later met a man who saw him as a young man who needed help. The man help Imran and trained him this man was Sir Ahmadu Bello.

Northern Nigeria was granted independence on March 15, 1953, with Sir Ahmadu Bello as its first premier. the Northern Peoples Congress under Sir Ahmadu Bello dominated parliament while the Northern Elements Progressive Union became the main opposition party.

Imran later became one of the notable party member and a great achiever who was against child marriage. He later reconnected with his sisters and got married to Fauziya and Selima they had 7 children.

The end