

Notes on Rabinow "Reflections on Fieldwork in Morocco"

Hermeneutical=based on Semiology (theory of Signs, i.e., Pierce), "Explication, not "Explanation" or "Prediction" (That is, Rabinow as a good "Interpretative" Anthropologist, believes that anthropology is a Humanities discipline, not a social science)

Phenomenology="It is not what precedes, but what follows a social event, or **phenomenon** that is important, watch for **consequences** in order, not to "explain" it with reference to some external idea, but to **explicate** it with reference to other ideas and behaviors internal to the particular system of culture, the entry into which is purely **contingent**

Rabinow starts with France, then flies to former colony, Morocco

1.) First Stop: Sefrou=the walled city on the coast, within which is the ville nouvelle, the French suburb

a.) 2 generations of French immigrants:

- i.) The farmers, who tamed the land and had some familiarity with Moroccan culture, **1920s**
- ii.) The functionaries who did not, **1940s**

3 most important things the Moroccans keep from the French:

1.) Language, (2.) Women, (3.) Religion (not money!); the most important thing for this patriarchal (and patrilineal) society is to have sons, without them a rich man is really poor!

2.) Second Stop: the **Hotel O'Liveraie**, run by Richard, a sympathetic guide to entry, but he cannot stay there, still outside Moroccan culture

3.) Third Stop: the Market, Soussi's "clothing store", which is really a brothel; women will "lose honor" but can still marry (widowers) & resume life, not much **stigma** to this lifestyle (**deviant** in our culture, one "career path" in their's)

4.) Fourth Stop: **Sidi Lahcen Lyussi**, the Berber village in the interior of the Middle Atlas Mountains, the small "traditional" village divided into 2 sets of patrilineal lineages (essentially sets of co-resident brothers): the "Sons of the Saints" and the "Sons of the Slaves" (commoners); the former have Baraka=Sacred Power or "Blessedness" (cognate with the Hebrew "baroukh"; this is the "interior")

Main Characters:

- 1.) Richard (the Hotel Owner="Sympathetic Outsider")
- 2.) Ibrahim (ambitious shopkeeper, keeps reform [Fundamentalist] Islam separate, packaged his culture, a former colonial government interpreter)
- 3.) Ali (the "Marginal Man", intelligent, a good informant)
- 4.) Soussi (the roly-poly shop owner, street-corner society)

- 5.) Mekki (the dumb sheepherder, a cousin of Ali, one of the "Slaves"; the inept informant-called away)
- 6.) Rashid (the son of a prosperous shopkeeper, another "Slave", but too good an informant, causes concern among the Saints for his knowledge of their secrets which he will share with the infidel)
- 7.) Malik (the **fqi**, the teacher in the local **Koranic** school, sickly, diligent, a good informant forced to "reconceptualize", but not a friend-the incident about the car)
- 8.) Ben Mohammed (the son of the Saints, a true friend, not an informant, symbol of complete entry)

The Episodes:

- 1.) the Curing "Night" by the **Sufi** (mystical) Aissawa Brotherhood, his first exposure to "otherness", lions, fire-eating trance
- 2.) trip to Marrakech, Ibrahim uses as resource= 1st **disillusionment**
- 3.) trip to Sidi Lahcen, the Wedding, the incident with Ali over **Karim**= "generosity", power, symbolic domination/independence
- 4.) trip to Marmoucha, the Hot Springs with the girls, spends night
- 5.) Feast with the Beni Yarghra, a neighboring Arabic-speaking tribe, a disaster, the Saints reveal their secret to Rabinow

