

Sarkin Kano

Abdullahi Maje Karofi (1855-1882)

Abdullahi the second son of Sarkin Kano Ibrahim Dabo was appointed Sarkin Kano by *Sarkin Musulmi* Aliyu Babba to succeed his elder brother Usman Maje Ringim on the 4th of Muharram 1272 AH (September 16, 1855 AD) at the age of forty-one ((Last 1966: 468)). According to the *Kano Chronicle* he was called Abdu Sarkin Yanka because he was strongly minded and victorious (Palmer 1928). He was committed to the military supremacy of Kano hence he once sought the aid of Queen Victoria for the manufacture of guns (Lavers 1979: 382 and 391).

Bukhari of Hadejia seriously threatened the territorial integrity of Kano. But there was no direct confrontation between him and the Emir of Kano. Bukhari invaded Kano territories more especially when the Abdullahi travelled to Sokoto. Kano was relieved of Bukhari's threat when he was defeated and wounded in Birnin Babuje and he was taken to Hadejia where he died after a short time. The continued invasion of Kano by the *Ningawa* (people of Ningi) threatened the emirate. Sarkin Bauchi who was also threatened by this people had to establish a ribat against them although he later withdrew the soldiers because their attitude towards Jihad had changed. The Ningawa and their non-Muslim allies raided neighboring provinces of the Sokoto Caliphate as a result of the relaxation of the Bauchi ribatists (Ado-Kurawa 1989).

Sarkin Kano Abdullahi Majekarofi mobilized his

forces against the Ningawa because they attacked the ribats of Kano. The Kano army camped at Falali for three years 1273-1275 AH (1856-1859 AD). This great *ribat* restrained Dan Maje who was one of the leaders of the invaders and their allies. *Waziri* Muhammad Dan Abdullahi once defeated Dan Maje at Tufai (Ado-Kurawa 1989). Sarkin Rano Aliyu a powerful *babban dagachi* (semi autonomous territorial chief) had earlier defeated Dan Maje at Tungugu near Bunkure in 1272 AH (1855) before the Sarki camped at Falali. Later in 1274 AH (1858) Dan Maje retaliated, he invaded Kano through Rano while Sarkin Kano was at Falali, Sarkin Rano Aliyu was killed in that encounter (Dantiye 1985: 217).

Sarkin Kano Abdullahi Majekarofi was at Falali ribat in 1277 AH (1860) but he had to abandon it because of a letter from the Sarkin Musulmi instructing him to participate at the Harifa campaigns. He appointed his son *Ciroma* Yusuf, to defend Kano against Dan Maje. Yusuf was then the chief custodian of the ribats. The Ningawa first destroyed Sumaila and then later defeated Yusuf at Takai this made him to retreat to Sarina. Jakadan Garko who was Yusuf's colleague was forced by the Ningawa to retreat to Fajewa. Seven years later in 1284 AH (1867) the Ningawa invaded Sumaila again. This invasion made the inhabitants of Dando, Gani and Matagwai to migrate (Dantiye 1985: 217). Throughout the Emirate period, Ningi maintained its independence, raids and counter-raids between Ningi and neighboring Emirates of

Karofi Katsina Rock near tomb of Maje Karofi





Sarkin Kano Abdullahi Maje Karoffi's grave at Karofi, Katsina State

the Sokoto caliphate continued until the British colonial occupation (Said 2012: 86-87, Patton, Aliyu 1973: 187).

Maradi under Danbaskore (1275-1295 AH/1858-1859) was also a great threat to Kano during the reign of Abdullahi Majekarofi. The Maradi army raided Kano successfully in the 1870's. Kano was once defeated near Gwarzo and its Commander Sarkin Dawaki Danladan was killed (Palmer 1928:130). The Damagarawa under Tanimu Dan Sulaiman 1268-1271 AH/1851-1884 also raided Kano and they attacked Jirima and destroyed Garun Ali (Said 2012: 100 and Dantiye 1985: 226-230). Abdullahi Majekarofi could be regarded as one of the most politically successful leaders of Kano during the Emirate period because he was able to survive all external and internal threats. And he was not manipulated by the Sokoto central government a fact that could be attributed to the weakness of the administration of the four caliphs that coincided with his reign (Fika 1978: 22). For example, Sarkin Musulmi Muazu Dan Bello (1294-1298AH/1877-1881) noticed the growing influence of Abdullahi Majekarofi and attempted to depose him but he was unable. As a result of this attempt, Abdullahi, promised never to visit Sokoto. He even sent his son *Wambai* Shehu on his behalf to pledge allegiance to the newly appointed

Karofi Katsina Rock near tomb of Maje Karofi



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Sarkin Musulmi Umaru. He later broke his promise presumably to discuss the advent of the expected **mahdi or** reformer (Said 2012: 99 and Paden 1973: 174).

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Karofi Countryside

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Abdullahi Majekarofi made several appointments and also dismissed or executed other officials who refused to cooperate with him. Among those deposed or executed were his brother *Galadima* Abdulkadir, his son Yusuf, *Dan Iya* Alaburra, **Ciroma** Dikko, Sarkin Dawaki Abdu, Qadi Ahmadu Rufa'i and **Makaman Gado da Masu (Palmer 1928: 131)**. He also made the **cucanawa** (palace slave officials) more influential than freeborn titled officials as a means of ensuring effective administration because at that time a relative or clan head could be a threat (Said 1978: 97).

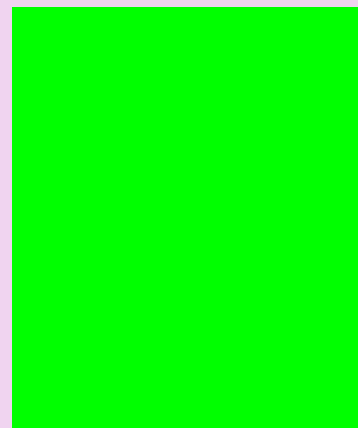
Abdullahi Majekarofi died on Shawwal 12, 1299AH (September 18, 1882) (Last 1966: 468) at the age of sixty-eight at Karofi village on his way to Kaura Namoda where he was to meet Sarkin Musulmi Umar Dan Aliyu. Thus he was posthumously named *Maje Karofi* (the one who died at Karofi). He had one hundred and sixty children. Most of the Kano chiefs were his in-laws. His successor politicized these marital relationships.

Karofi Countryside



Tafidan Kano Muhammadu

He was the eldest son of his father Sarkin Abdullahi Maje Karofi. He was the Tafida before his elevation to the title of Waziri. Waziri Muhammad was the commander of the Kano, during the reign of his father. He was successful in several battles against the Ningawa. He was also successful against the Warjawa and was able to defeat their leader Abubakar Dan Maje at Tufai. His son Abdullahi was the first to be appointed Waziri during the first few years of the colonial rule but he was removed and Abdullahi Bayero was appointed. Dr. Cargill the colonial resident later demoted Bayero to Chiroma.



Galadiman Kano Yusuf

He was the second son of Sarkin Kano Abdullahi Maje Karofi. He was appointed Ciroman Kano and chief custodian of the ribats by his father. Yusuf was an intelligent and excellent military commander these qualities earned him the title of Galadiman Kano when his uncle Abdulkadir was deposed.

Mallam Ibrahim Bazazagi, the *Magatakarda* (chief scribe) of Sarki Abdullahi wrote series of letters to Sokoto alledging that his master was too old and incompetent and he signed those letters in Yusuf's name who was unaware. When Sarkin Kano visited Sokoto he was shown the letters. On his return to Kano he deposed Yusuf and even attempted to kill him but his brother Turaki Bello, who later became Sarkin Kano prevailed upon him and spared Yusuf's life. Sarki Abdullahi appointed Ibrahim the architect of this intrigue Galadima.

Yusuf was Sarkin Musulmi's favourite candidate for Emirship succession after the death of Abdullahi Maje Karofi. The Waziri of Sokoto opposed Yusuf's candidature on the ground that Yusuf will be too independent, he was in favour of *Dan Lawal* Yusuf Dan Ibrahim Dabo. Nana Mariam daughter of Shehu Usman Danfodio, a highly respected elderly lady intervened and suggested a comprise Turaki Bello Dan Ibrahim Dabo. Thereafter Sarkin Musulmi Abdulrahman promised in writing to appoint Yusuf if Sarki Bello dies before him. The Sarkin Musulmi did not fulfill this promise when Bello died he appointed Tukur who saved his life at Arugungu instead of Yusuf. Thus he provided Yusuf the excuse for starting the civil war.

Yusuf and his followers left Kano for Takai shortly after the installation of his rival Tukur as the Sarkin Kano by *Wazirin Sakwato* Bukhari. A messenger was sent by the Waziri to persuade Yusuf but in vain, there was no compromise for the throne as far as Yusuf and his followers were concerned. The Yusufawa crushed all opposition along their way to Takai, a *ribat* (fortress) town established by Sarkin Kano Abdullahi Maje Karofi. Sarkin Takai Umaru Dan Mai Saje welcomed them but the town's Imam and those not willing to surrender to the Yusufawa left.

Yusuf was knowledgeable and intelligent, he had excellent military and leadership qualities he even killed Haruna, son of the notorious tyrant Dan Maje at Jambo. These qualities made Yusuf to gain the admiration of many important personalities of Kano. Resident North African merchants and the Kingdom of Gumel also supported him. Gumel was a rival of Kano and vassal of Borno.

Yusuf died at Garko in 1894 but his followers the (Yusufawa) continued their rebellion and their leader Alu, became Sarkin Kano by force on Wednesday 16th Safar 1312 AH (19th August 1894).

Dan Makwayo Yusuf



The grandson of Galadiman Kano Yusuf, he was born in Kano in 1890. He had his early Islamic education at the Emir's Palace and he later became closely associated to Sulaiman (Walin Kano) and Ahmadu Sufi who encouraged him to pursue advanced Islamic education under various scholars especially Shariff Ujudud.

In 1927 Yusuf was appointed the second Scribe of Chiroma Muhammad Sanusi, who was the District Head of Bichi. He was promoted to senior Scribe after the death of Ahmadu Sufi. Yusuf moved to Kano in 1939 when Chiroma was appointed Senior Councillor of the Emirate Council. And a year later he was appointed District Head of Garki with the title of *Dan Makwayo*. He was transferred from Garki, which had fifteen *Dagatai* (Village Heads) to Jahun, which had sixty-two *Dagatai* in 1943. He spent six years there before he was transferred to Gaya in June 1949 after the deposition of Sarkin Gaya, the District Head of the area. Gaya had fifty-seven *Dagatai* but it was more populous and richer than Jahun. He remained at Gaya where he died on Saturday 10th August 1968. He left behind thirty sons, twenty daughters and four wives.



Dan Lawan Kano Ayuba

He was one of the eldest sons of Sarkin Kano Abdullahi Maje Karofi. He had his early Quranic education at the Gidan Rumfa. Ayuba was knowledgeable in Fiqh and Hadith. He was married during the reign of his father along with his four other brothers namely Muhammadu Mairuwa (who later became Dan Isa), Umaru Sanda (who also later became Dan Isa), Yahaya Maikandiri and Ja'afaru. They were taken to Yakasai in a grand ceremony, their area in Yakasai became known as Yakasan Yayan Sarki.

According to his descendants he was turbaned Dan Lawal in 1854 by his father but this doubtful because Muhammadu Zangi recorded Yusuf Dan Sarkin Kano Dabo as Dan Lawal when he was writing his book in around 1868. Most probably Ayuba was appointed Dan Lawal after the death of both Muhammadu Zangi and Yusuf Dan Dabo.

Dan Lawal Ayuba died on 25th December 1883 at Sokoto this date is probably correct because Murray Last has reported that Dan Lawal died immediately after Bello had been appointed Sarkin Kano (Last 1977:171).

Turakin Kano Abubakar the eldest son of Dan Lawal Ayuba was born on the 9th June 1865. He was turbaned Turakin Kano and the District Head of Kura, which then included Kiru and Bebeji by his uncle Sarkin Kano Abbas. He died at Garun Mallam in 1915.

(Source of information Mai Unguwar Yakasai Alhaji Basiru aged 60 years interviewed on Thursday 22nd April 1998)

TURAKI Abubakar

Abubakar the eldest son of Dan Lawal Ayuba he was born on the 9th June 1865 Sarkin Kano Abbas turbaned him Turakin Kano and the District Head of Kura, which then included Kiru and Bebeji. Turaki Abubakar died at Gurun Mallam in 1915.

ZANNA Aminu Sadiq



SARKIN DAWAKIN TSAKAR GIDA Isa

Isa the second son of Dan Lawal Ayuba was born in 1867. He was turbaned Sarkin Dawakin Tsakar Gida and District Head of Gwaram by Sarkin Kano Abbas in 1913. And he was deposed in 1926 after which he devoted his time to Islamic scholarship.

WAZIRIN KANO Ahmadu

Sarkin Aliyu Babba (Alu) appointed him Waziri. There was no Waziri as a single title since the death of their elder brother. Sarkin Fada Nagytum once acted as Waziri during the reign of Sarkin Kano Bello.

Waziri Ahmadu was the most influential Emirate titleholder during the reign of Sarki Aliyu this was acknowledged by Reverend Walter Miller who would have been killed along with his other missionary colleagues if Waziri Ahmadu had not intervened during an Emirate Council session at Panisau. He also intervened when Sarki Alu wanted to imprison Inuwa (son of Ma'aji) who brought the news to him at Faru that the British had captured Kano (Muffett 1971: 47).

When the British attacked and defeated Kano in the absence of Sarki Alu, they declared him deposed but he was not even ready to resist them, because of the inevitability of bloodshed. Thus he deserted his troops at Birnin Goga who were returning with him from Sokoto. Waziri Ahmadu who was the next in the Emirate hierarchy took over the command of the Kano Army. According to some sources Lugard wrote to Ahmadu "suggesting the terms for the end to hostilities". The message did not arrive before the encounter between the Kano army and the British contingent who were both unaware of Lugard's plan (Fika 1978: 94).

Waziri Ahmadu was very brave and determined to fight the British. When the Kano troops had the sound of the British guns, Salaman Kano said: "These are the Europeans for I fought in the city I know the sound of their guns. Lets us therefore look to ourselves". The people were silent but the Waziri replied thus: "Haba Salama! There is nothing for us to do but to fight them. If we do not win today then today we go under. Shall we postpone what we have begun?"

Dan Buram Haruna

Haruna was born in c.1864 he was already married before his father went to Sokoto in 1882 and the wedding ceremony was to take place after the later's return from Sokoto but he died at Karofi. Thus Haruna's wedding ceremony was low keyed and he lived with his first wife at Kabara before the civil war.

Haruna studied some of the Islamic subjects briefly at Bida. He was turbaned Dan Buram of Kano and District Head of Minjibir in 1909, he was transferred to Kumbotso as its District Head in 1928 and he was retired in 1932.

Dan Buram was very popular and he was highly praised by the praise singers. His popularity might not be unconnected with his generosity, sense of justice and humility. Minjibir town was also called "*Ta yarima kowa Sarkin*" (princess of towns every resident is a king). This was because Dan Buram Haruna respected every resident of the town. He once suspended Muhammad, his eldest son, from the town for beating up a butcher. He also loved his relatives especially his nephews for example he took care of the children of Isiyaku his younger brother.

Dan Buram Haruna died in 1936 at the age of eighty-five years and many children and grandchildren survived him.

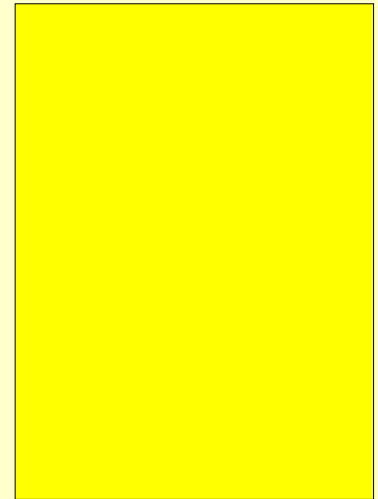
Galadiman Kano Mahmud

Sarkin Kano Alu appointed him Wambai after the death of Wambai Muhammadu Nakande. According to Temple when Galadima Isiyaku died he was promoted to the title of Galadima. Fika has reported that Mahmud was appointed Galadima in 1895 this could only be possible if Isiyaku served for a year or less.

When Sarkin Kano Alu decided to desert his troops at Birmim Goga before the Kwatarkoshi encounter he instructed Galadima Mahmud to return his wife, whom he had just married, to her father Sarkin Musulmi Attahiru. Mahmud perhaps remained at Sokoto or later followed the Sarkin Musulmi to Burmi. Alkalin Kano and the two sons of Alu: Chiroma Majeli and Turaki Dalhatu

DAN MAJE ZAKARI

He was born during the reign of his father Sarkin Kano Abdullahi Majekarofi. After he had completed the Qur'an went to Zaria to further his Islamic his main teacher there was Mallam Muhammad Na Birnin Gwari. He remained in Zaria for about thirty years until he was recalled by his elder brother Sarkin Kano Shehu Usman who appointed him *Dan Maje* and District Head of Taura. He had an intimate brotherly relationship with Sarkin Kano Usman who had wanted to appoint him Wambai, the latter's previous title before he was appointed Sarkin Kano but the courtiers advised him against it. These courtiers instead convinced Sarkin Kano Usman to appoint his son Abdullahi Maibindiga as Wambai so that he will also succeed him as Sarkin Kano. Zakari was thus conferred with a lesser title of Dan Maje in 1921 after the creation of Taura District from Wambai's Dabi District.



He was retired in 1931 for negligence of duty. He continued paying homage to Sarkin Kano Abdullahi Bayero every Friday until he was relieved by the later because of old age. Sarki Abdullahi Bayero continued to send him the traditional gifts at the appropriate times. Dan Maje Zakari also used to write Arabic manuscripts and sell them as a supplementary income apart from his pension.

He died in 1950 and was survived by many descendants including Mallam Bashari who was the ward head of Kurawa, Alhaji Mahmud who was a staff of Kano Native Authority Adult Education Department and Alhaji Mukhtar who was *Dan Majen* Kano and District Head of Tsanyawa until his death on 17th July 1988.



Dan Maje Mukhtar Zakari

He was born in 1927. He attended Kofar Kudu Elementary School. He was the Native Authority Head of Motor Parks when the system was abolished when 1976 and Sarkin Kano Alhaji Ado Bayero appointed him Dallatun Kano and the District Head of the newly Aujara District. He was promoted to the title of Dan Maje and posted to Tsanyawa in 1987 and he was retired in 1989.

Danmajen Kano
Muntari Zakari
1987-1989