

Mourides (whoever wants to)

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I lived in the neighborhood Lavapiés in Madrid for 2 years. During this time, I became good friends with Senegalese people who lived there. They call themselves Baye Fall, a sect founded on 1883 that gathers different beliefs as the Islam and the Rastafarianism. The Mourides Brotherhood is present all over the world, especially in Senegal, Gambia, France, New York, and Spain.

I was interested in getting to know them and see from a closer perspective this religious, cultural, biological, economical and power mixture that they generate outside their own country. Most Africans live in deplorable situations all over Europe, many of them die and are in jail, but their Jeques (Brotherhood leaders, whose picture is carried on their followers' necks) don't need passports. Their quality of religious leaders grants them the right to travel and visit their disciples whenever they want. Also, it was very interesting to see how religion creates family and how, after some time, each one of them fulfill a role. Even though someone else will replace them in a few months since the African migration in Europe is in constant movement due to its illegality.

While I lived with them, I decided to register them during their rituals, prayers, as well as their garments and philosophy. I photographed them every Sunday, when the Baye Fall have a procession with the intention of renovating their spirits. There they gather money to send to their countries with the Jeques.