

CONTENTS

PREFACE

v

PART ONE · INTRODUCTION

A. SOMALI DRAMA

I. The oral nature of Somali drama	3
II. Titles of plays and the naming of characters	5
III. Plots	6
IV. Costumes and scenery	7
V. Acting, singing, and music	8
VI. Recordings and radio plays	9
VII. Actors, playwrights, and audiences	10
VIII. The patriotic and reformist role of Somali drama	11

B. A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

15

C. THE SOCIAL AND CULTURAL SETTING

I. Introductory	18
II. The position of women and the battle of the sexes	18
III. Banter	19
IV. Marriage and divorce	19
V. Grouping by age and sex	21
VI. Terms of address, attention signals, and riddles	22
VII. Poetry and its rural imagery	23
VIII. The use of foreign languages	23
IX. Scriptural quotations, pious invocations, and curses	24
X. Men of religion, ritual purity, and preparing for the Pilgrimage	24
XI. Saints, Holy Writ amulets, and ink potions	25
XII. Mystic messages and signs	26
XIII. The Prophet Khadar	26
XIV. The evil eye, spirit possession, sorcery, and magic	27

D. A NOTE ON THE PLAY

I. The author	28
II. The text of the play	29
III. Stage directions and scene-division	30
IV. Technique of translation	31
V. Foreign words and phrases	32
VI. Transcription of Somali	32
VII. Transcription of Arabic words and phrases	34
VIII. Actors and musicians	35
IX. Names of characters	35
X. Introductory announcement	36
E. BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES	38

PART TWO · THE PLAY

Dramatis Personae	43
Prologue	44
Scene 1. Guuleed prepares for the Pilgrimage	46
Scene 2. Diiddan and Diiddane debate modern marriage	56
Scene 3. Shabeel persuades Shallaayo to marry him	66
Scene 4. Diiddan and Diiddane resume their debate	86
Scene 5. Shammado calls in Kulmiya to treat her daughter	96
Scene 6. Shallaayo pleads with Shabeel	106
Scene 7. Radio Mogadishu answers Shammado's letter	116
Scene 8. Diiddane gives Shallaayo some advice	120
Scene 9. Shallaayo goes to see the Judge	124
Scene 10. Diiddan and Diiddane find an abandoned child	140
Scene 11. Guuleed returns from the Pilgrimage	152
Scene 12. Shabeel tries his luck with Diiddan	170
Scene 13. Shallaayo and Diiddane debate the enmity between men and women	174
Scene 14. Diiddan's pupils are warned against the 'Leopard' and go into action	176

Scene 15. Shabeel has an unwelcome encounter with his friends	194
Scene 16. Diiddan and Diiddane make their decision	198
Epilogue	212

PART THREE · APPENDICES

APPENDIX A. Conjectural readings and emendations	217
APPENDIX B. List of anglicized spellings of Somali names	220
APPENDIX C. Annotated glossary of proper names occurring in the play	222
NOTES	225