

## Sunjata: Epic of Old Mali, by D.T. Niane

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- p. 22: The more a wife loves husband and/or suffers for child → the more valorous the child
- p. 28: Sunjata threatens brother/king
- p. 12: Sogolon raped—yes or no
- p. 7, 9: Old woman @ creek in Do related to king of Do; Sogolon is her wraith
- p. 34: King remarks on Sunjata—“Man has leadership on him”
- p. 40: Sunjata’s griot stolen (Balla Fasseke)
- p. 41: “Nearly 3 moons...”, Game of wori/king’s guest
- p. 2: Greek Influence
  - \*View of wealth (Africa/Mali) vs. Greek view
  - \*Role of religion (Islam and Animal sacrifices)
- p. 59: Feats of Strength
- p. 41: “What paltry reading is concealed in dumb books.”

### Wife’s Love and Respect

Nare Maghan → Unfaithful wife with strong son  
Faithful wife with crippled son

Idea of preparation for great/spectacular/powerful end

Unfaithful wife: concerned with weakening Sundiata  
Not concerned with strengthening own son

p. 28: First son gets iron will due to mother; vows that power cannot be shared  
Then he becomes intimidated by Sundiata’s threats of return

Supernatural strength of Sundiata

Choice to not walk shows the choice of one’s own actions and paths to take

### p. 12: Rape of Sogolon

Sogolon flaunts pregnancy after rape

Nare Maghan sacrificed Sogolon’s buffalo spirit/wraith

### Gender Roles

Destiny: Sundiata’s path more realistic than Odysseus’

Women have more leadership role than in Odyssey

Sausume (first wife) acts as regent for son while he is young

Odyssey mindset versus African tradition

African culture more utilitarian and less dependant on Religious beliefs

Sundiata and sister—trained in magic of the night (sorcerers)

### Role of Islam

Do = more Islamic mosques than in Mali

### Ending

Anticlimactic

\*Sorcerer king trapped/turned to stone in a cave

### Comment 66—separate ending

Death ways of Soumoro

1. Turned to rock in cave
2. Vanished on battlefield with Sundiata

Mixing of wraith with jinn

Sacrifices; Muslims have special day: Eid ul Adhan

Superstition

p. 80: “Day most Fortunate is also day most Unfortunate because one cannot imagine misfortune?”

Less Direct relationship between supernatural power and gods/God

Master of Fate versus Slave to Fate