

THE POWER OF A NAME: DISCOVERING THE HISTORY OF MOROCCAN JEWERY

David Bensoussan

<http://www.editionsdulys.com>



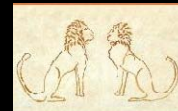
Les Éditions Du Lys

Onomastics: An ancient Jewish tradition

This is the account of Adam's line

In the Bible, a name has generally a meaning

The book of generations



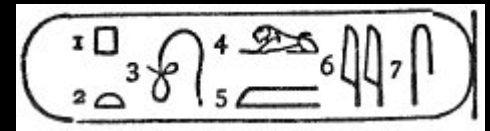
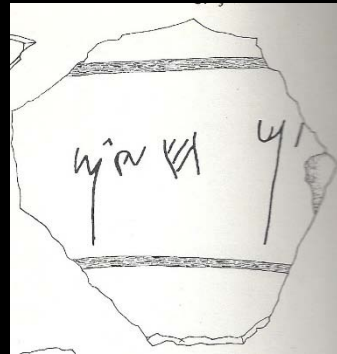
North African Jewish Onomastics

- Close to 1200 names
- Sample names will be presented
- Not all the variations of the same name will be presented
 - Teboul, Abitbol, Botbol...
- A name sometimes keeps traces of its past / linguistic / geographic context
- A name keeps traces of past civilisations
- In case of Morocco, names keep traces of many civilisations, languages and cultures:



CLASSIFICATION

- Biblical names
- Phoenician or Punic names
- Talmudic names
- Greek names
- Roman names
- Berber names
- Arabic names
- Spanish names
- Portuguese names
- Modernization of names
- Varia: names related to character, attributes, profession etc.



Πτολεμαῖος

- □□□□□□



THE BIBLICAL PERIOD

- Belonging to the 12 tribes of Israel:
Cohen, Lévy, Issiminy, Afriat
- Places in Israel
Lahmy, Dery
- Biblical names:
Nahmias, Obadia



MAP OF THE PERIOD OF THE KINGS



- Legends about the exile of the 10 tribes
- Amos



THE PHEONICIAN PORTS AND MARITIME TRADE UNDER KINGS SOLOMON/JEHOSHAPHAT



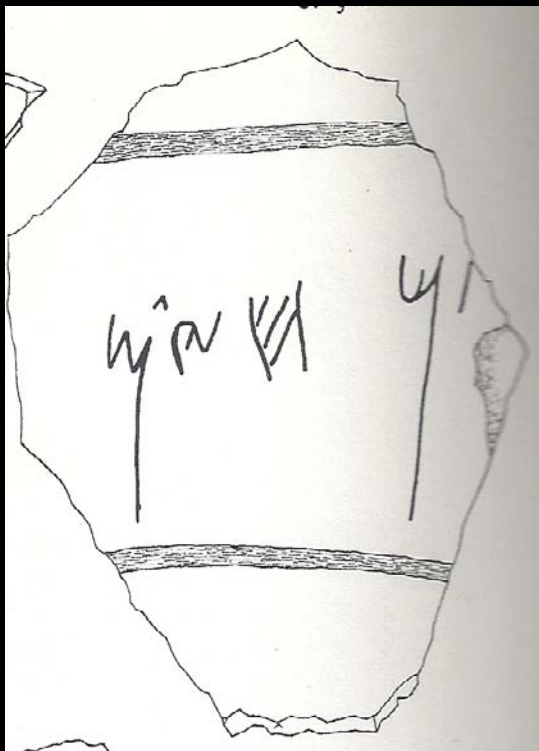
PHOENICIAN/CANANEAN NAMES

Abensour	From Tyre ()
Banon, Benuna	Son of Fish)
Bousidan, Assidon	From the city of Sidon ()
Acrath	From the Phoenician city
Hanon, Hanin, Ohnona	Phoenician name: (re: Periple)
Outgergoust	Son of Girgashi

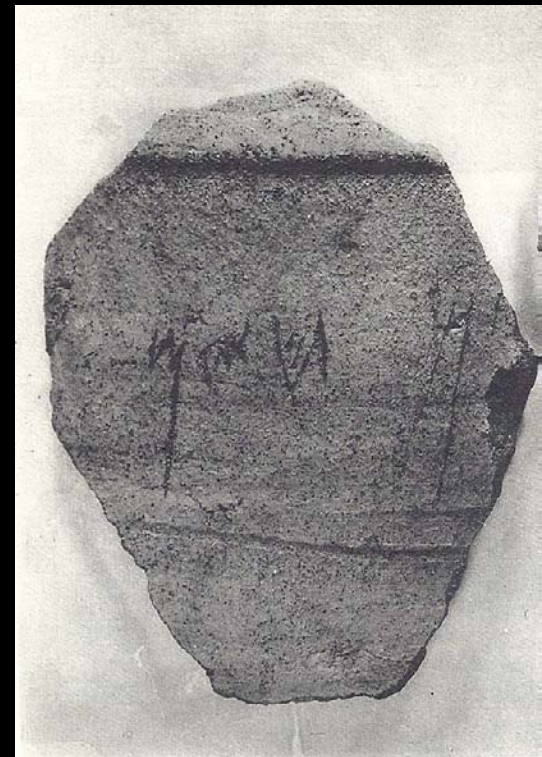


M...HAYIM

...



א ב ג ד ה ו ז ח ט י כ ל מ נ ס ע פ צ ק ר ש ת
x w q p h j o f z l y z m i y o s k
x w q p h j o f z l y z m i y o s k
x w q p h j o f z l y z m i y o s k



THE TALMUDIC PERIOD

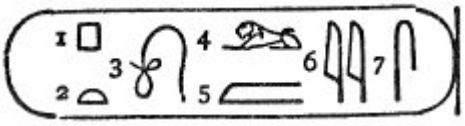
- The prefix Bar, Mar (son of): Moryoussef
Marely, Barchechat (Son of 6)
- Soudry (veil)
- Malca
- Gabbay Tax collector
- Sibony (full, well fed, satisfied)
- Tsemah
- Places in Mesopotamia: Danan, Amara, Bitan



THE GREEK PERIOD



GREEK PERIOD

Philo	Translation of Yedidya
Ptolemaus	Son of war 
Ben Zeno	From Zenon (Zeus)
Todros	God's gift (Theodorus)

Μαρεῖνος Πτολεμαῖος Ἰουδαῖος



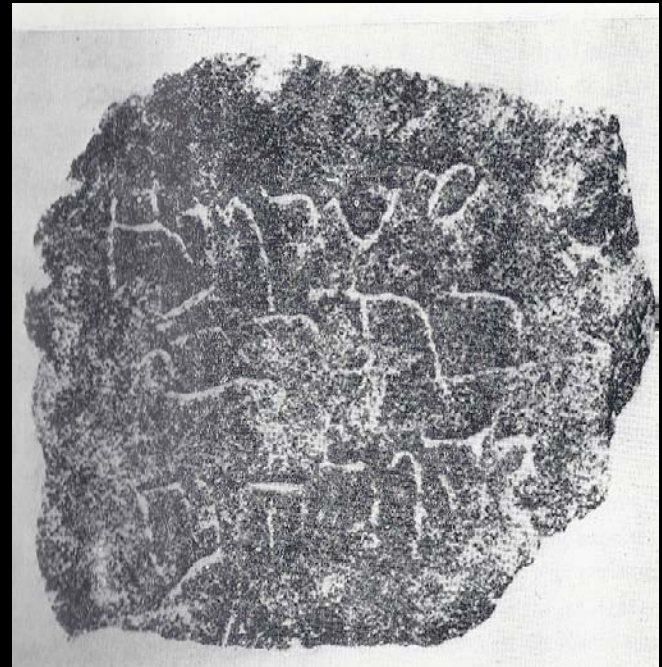
The Roman/Punic Period Punic wars (264-146)



Les Éditions Du Lys

LATIN NAMES

Vital, Vidal	
Bitton, Vitton	
Todros	From Theodorus (god's gift)
Kolonymos	Equivalent of Shem Tov



*Matrona Bat Rabi
Yehuda Noah*



LATIN INSCRIPTION CYRÈNE, LIBYA

IMP CAESAR DIVI TRAIAN
PARTHICI FIDIVINERVAENEPOS
TRAIANVS HADRIANVS AVGVSTVS PONTIF
MAX TRIPOTESTICVS TRIBALINEVM
CVM PORTICIBVS ET SPHAERISTERIS
CETERISQVE ADIACENTIBVS QVAE
TVM VLTIMO IYDAICO DIRVTAE TEXVSTA
ERANT CIVITATIS CYRENENSIVM RESTITV
IVSSIT

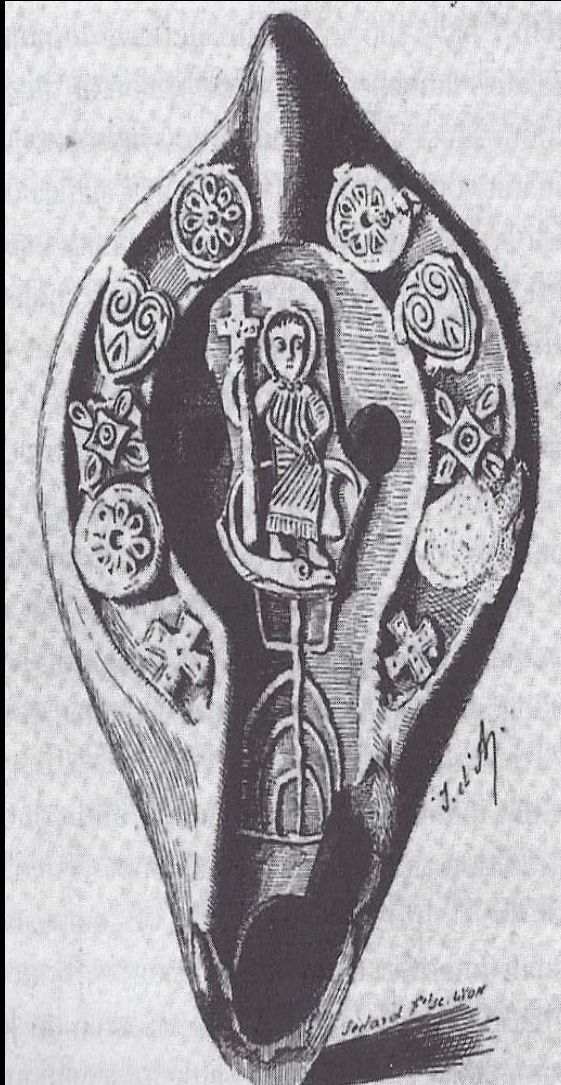


Inscription: maison construite après Tumulto Iudaico



Les Éditions Du Lys

BEGINNINGS OF CHRISTIANITY



Selluk = city in Libya

Besis = Bsays tribe,
Libya

Tajouri = from Tajoma

Fitoussi = from Fitus



JUDEIZED BERBERS OR BERBER JEWS

- Few records on the coexistence of Jews and Berbers
- Legends of Jewish Kingdoms
- Strong Christian and Jewish presence
- The Jewish queen Al Kahena from the Djeraoua tribe
- The invasion of Spain



Berber names

- Almozeg, Benamozeg, Outmezguine □□□□□□
- Znati, Tribe of Zenata
- Azeroual From Tazarwalt
- Etedguy From Todgha
- Dadoun From Ida ou Blal
- Touati From Touat
- Aflalo From Tafilalet
- Alloun Trad Ovidia
- Akoka Jacob
- Azencot Gazelle
- Mellul White
- Knafo Cape
- Tamsot Food
- The prefix **O** (son of)
 - **O**hayon, **O**hana, **O**hnona, **O**uaknine



THE ARAB INVASION

- Khalifa, Mekhlouf, Khalfon
- Benwaish, Benamron
- Maimon **Wealthy, Lucky**
- Saadia **Happiness**
- Hakim **Wise**
- Elharar **Silk worker**
- Mechaly **Light/Candle provider**
- Sabbah **Matutinal**
- Sabbagh **Painter**
- Assayag **Jeweller**
- Ibn Chaprouth
- Tanji, Tanoudji **From Tangiers**
- Elfassy **From Fes**
- Scali **From Sicily**
- Faranji (Serfaty) **French**



THE SPANISH PERIOD

- Mussulmans' domains
- Galicia & Leon
- Navarre
- France & French Piefs
- Portugal
- Aragon and The Catalan Counties
- Castile (with Toledo)

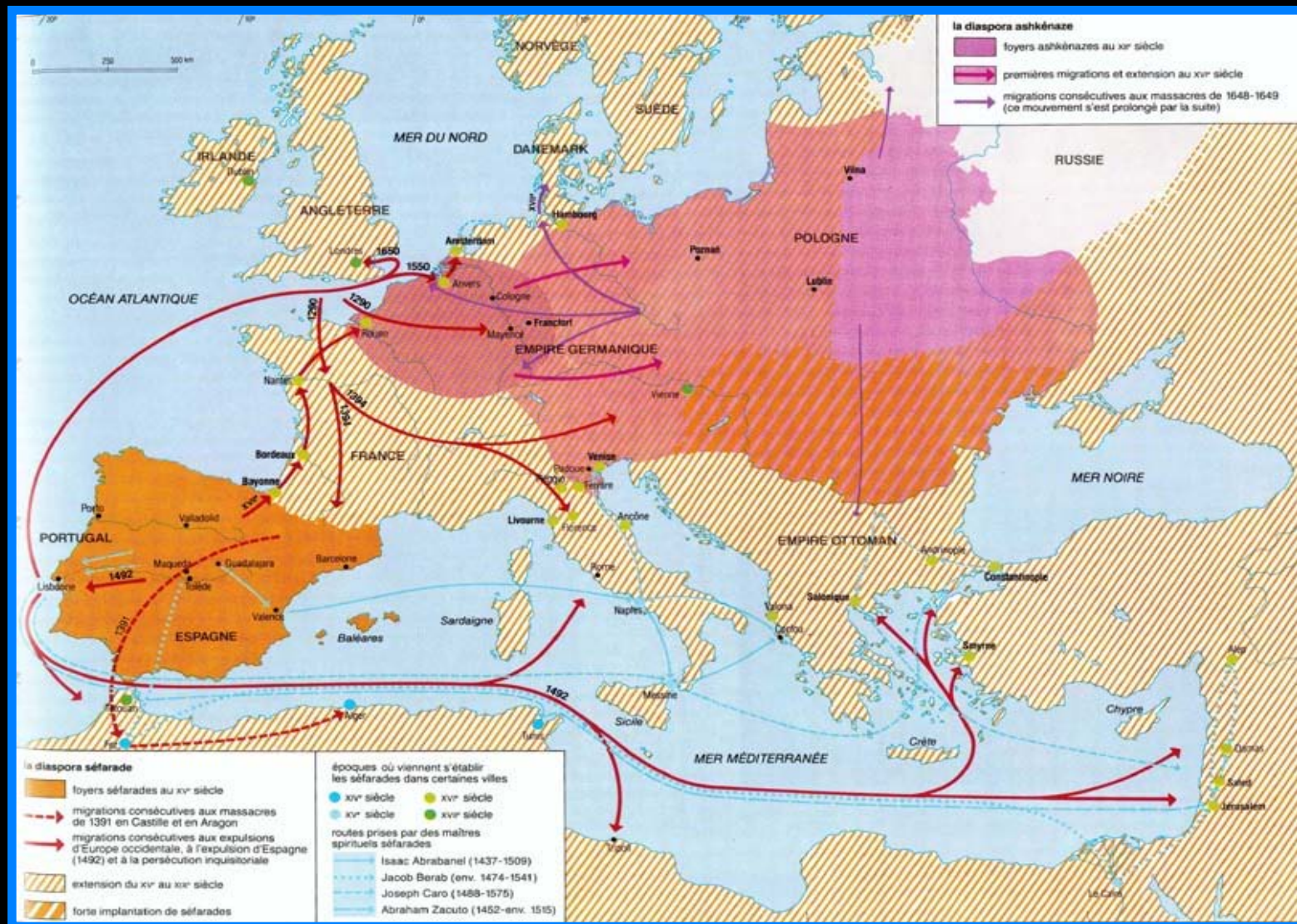


THE SPANISH PERIOD

Castro	Castle
Franco	Liberated, emancipated
Castiel	Castilla
Lugassy	From Lugas, Oveido
Pinto	From Spain/Portugal
Toledano	Toledo
Marciano	Murcia



POST INQUISITION MIGRATIONS



PORTUGUESE HISPANO-PORTUGUESE JEWS

Delmar	Henriques
Cruz	Mendes
Costa	Chavez
Silva	Funes
Souza	From Spain/Portugal





MARANOS /
MUHARIJIN

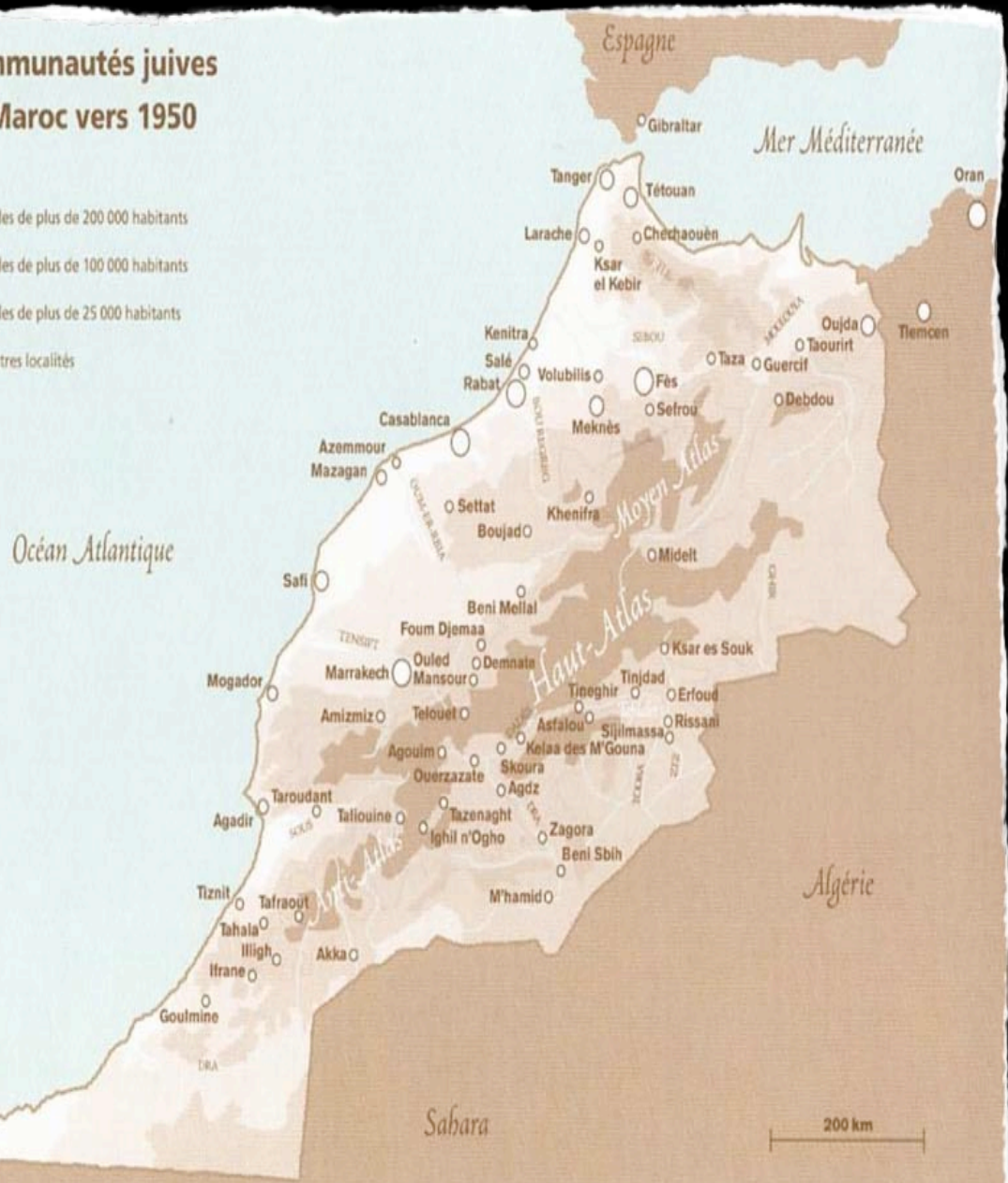
THE
CONVERTED IN
THE FES
REGION



Les Éditions Du Lys

Communautés juives au Maroc vers 1950

- Villes de plus de 200 000 habitants
- Villes de plus de 100 000 habitants
- Villes de plus de 25 000 habitants
- Autres localités



FRENCH-SPANISH PROTECTORATE



MODERNIZATION OF NAMES

- **Prononciation:** Bensoussan, Bensimon
- **First names close to Hebrew names**
Madeleine for Myriam, Diane for Dinah, Charles - Chalom
Jacques - Yaakov, Albert - Abraham, Aimé - Hayim,
Perla - Penina, Messody/Fortunée - Mas'uda
- **Americanization of names:** Jimmy, Jacky, Maggy, Suzy, Charly
- **In Israël:** Bar Gil for Abergel, Avital for Abitbol, Segev for Sebag, Efrati for Afriat, Weitsman for Wizman, Heftsibah for Hassiba, Benshu(o)shane for Bensoussan
- **In Quebec:** O'hana



FIRST NAMES: SPANISH/ARABIC/BERBER

- Alegria / Estrella / Dona / Sol / Rosa
- Sarita / Luna / Reina/ Rosa / Flora
- Freha / Mass'uda / 'Aziza/ / Zohra / Hbibba
- Braham / Moussi / Slomo / Harone / Makhlouf
- Nono (Nessim) / Isso (Joshua) / Yiddar (to live) /
Haddi (Juda) / Izzah_u (Yitshaq)/ Msane (Moshé) /Yakot (pearl)
Slilo (Salomon) / Mamo (Myriam) / Izza (perfume)
- Hassiba ()/ Hana / Simha /Sarah / Rahel / Mazal



ATTRIBUTES

Shem Tov	Good name
Tayeb	Good
Bueno	Good
Gomel	Grateful
Kadosh, Kedoshim	Holy
Ben Naim	Pleasant



PHYSICAL ATTRIBUTES

Abergel	One legged
Cabessa	Head
Moreno	Brown
Amzallag	Jewellery maker
Bohbot	Big belly



NAMES OF DIGNITARIES

Cohen, Levy	Priesthood	Abuderham	Tax collector?
Dayan, Danan	Judge	Senor	Sir
Gaon	Leader of the community	Nezri	Crowned
Naguid	Prince	Sultan	King
Hazzan	Cantor	Benzaken	Wise



PROFESSIONS

Torjman	Translator	Dahan	Oil seller
Assayag	Jeweller	Assor	Presser
Sebbag	Painter	Abitbol, Tobali	Drummer
Hayat	Tailor	Elghrably	Siever
Benattar	Grocer	Assaraf	Money changer



VARIA : NAMES IN RELATION TO

- **light:** Zohar, Anaori, Lombroso, Benaroya, Sabbah
- **peace:** Salama, Abulafia
- **goodness:** Hasday, Elmoznino, Ibghi, Benezra
- **cleaninesss:** Encaoua
- **music:** Benzimra, Zemiro, Teboul
- **Plants/ flowers:** Busbib, Soussana, Berdugo, Bensoussan
- **jewels:** Mrejen, Benlolo, Hadida, Fedida
- **colours:** Chocron, Albo, Melul
- **foreigners:** Serfaty, Ashkenazi, Chriqui, Mergui, Elfersy
- **Theophoric names:** Oziel, Obadia, Benshimol, Amiel, Oliel
- **Unknown meaning:** Rimok, Chetrit, Lusky



ABOUT THE NAME BENSOUSSAN

- Psalms
- The city of Suze
- The fleur de lys
- The lotus
- The Sous ?
- Origin : Benjamin/Ephraim
- Abraham Ibn Shushane came to Morocco from Babylon at 7th century.
- Synagogue of Toledo
- Architect of the synagogue in Toledo
- Inscription in a Cordoba synagogue
- A street in Sevilla
- Issachar Bensoussan was an astronomer
- Abraham Bensoussan was chief Rabi of Morocco at the beginning of the 12th century
- Samuel Levy Bensoussan - writer and art critic in UK
- Alain Bensoussan in charge of Ariane space launching
- Albert Bensoussan - writer originally from Algeria and Morocco
- Georges Bensoussan - Historian



• ***THANK YOU***



Les Éditions Du Lys

ABOUT CITIES

- Marrakech **Mar Kush**
- Rossadir
- Mazagan
- Ceuta **Son of Kush (Genesis)**
- Avila **Son of Kush (Genesis)**
- Dery, Draa **From Edrei (Genesis)**
- Rif Rifat, **Son of Gomer**
- Ifrane **Built from earth (dust)**
- Taroudant **Rodanim (Genesis)**
- Azemmour **Zimrane (Genesis)**
- Libye **Lehavim (Genesis)**



Statistics

EISENBETH (1936)

45% Arab/Berber
13% Hebrew/Arameic
18% latin
Others or unknown

LAREDO (1975)

11% Berber
45% Arabic
35% Hebrew
29% Spanish
7% Phoenician
2% Portuguese
14% varia
6% unidentified

NB: combined origins (e.g. judeo-arabic) are counted twice



Names with geographical origin

Spain	324	Libya	3
Morocco	161	Phoenicia	3
Portugal	27	Mesopotamia	3
Israel- Judea	17	Transcaucasia	3
Carthage-Tunisia	13	Egypt	2
Persia	12	Turkey	2
Algeria	11	Soudan	2
France	10	Germany	2
Meaning « Oriental »	8	Italy	2
Italy	7	Geece	1
Arabia	5		

