

Negotiating Gender Relations in Riffian Folktales from Morocco

Hind Salhi¹

¹-Sidi Mohamed Ben Abdellah University, Dhar El Mehraz, Fez, Moroccan Cultural Studies Centre,
Fez, Morocco

hind.elssalhi@gmail.com

The paper presented here suggests an archaeological study of gender relations of power and resistance in the Riffi version of Cinderella. Maghigha, or the Riffi heroine in this version of the Cinderella story, foregrounds a model for the Berber speaking north Moroccan woman, and represents a stage of gender interactions. Household is one setting that is broadly scanned through this paper as well, for it systematically suggests the pivotal ground of gender interactions. The paper traces how folktales in this specific region in Morocco shaped or helped shaping gender relations in the household, and how, at the same time, they served as discursive articulations of resistance to the silenced femininity, allowing unwittingly the substratum of the social order in a patriarchal society to affect and whittle the identities of many generations.