

## THE MAGIC IN HISTORY SERIES

FORBIDDEN RITES

A Necromancer's Manual of the Fifteenth Century Richard Kieckhefer

CONJURING SPIRITS

Texts and Traditions of Medieval Ritual Magic Edited by Claire Fanger

RITUAL MAGIC Elizabeth M. Butler

THE FORTUNES OF FAUST

THE BATHHOUSE AT MIDNIGHT An Historical Survey of Magic and Divination in Russia W. F. Ryan

SPIRITUAL AND DEMONIC MAGIC From Ficino to Campanella

D. P. Walker

ICONS OF POWER
Ritual Practices in Late Antiquity
Naomi Janowitz

BATTLING DEMONS Witchcraft, Heresy, and Reform in the Late Middle Ages Michael D. Bailey

PRAYER, MAGIC, AND THE STARS IN THE ANCIENT AND LATE ANTIQUE WORLD Edited by Scott Noegel, Joel Walker,

and Brannon Wheeler
BINDING WORDS

Textual Amulets in the Middle Ages Don C. Skemer

STRANGE REVELATIONS
Magic, Poison, and Sacrilege in Louis XIV's France
Lynn Wood Mollenauer

UNLOCKED BOOKS Manuscripts of Learned Magic in the Medieval Libraries of Central Europe Benedek Láng ALCHEMICAL BELIEF

Occultism in the Religious Culture of Early Modern England *Bruce Janacek* 

INVOKING ANGELS

Theurgic Ideas and Practices, Thirteenth to Sixteenth Centuries

Edited by Claire Fanger

THE TRANSFORMATIONS OF MAGIC Illicit Learned Magic in the Later Middle Ages and Renaissance Frank Klaassen

MAGIC IN THE CLOISTER
Pious Motives, Illicit Interests, and Occult
Approaches to the Medieval Universe
Sophie Page

REWRITING MAGIC An Exegesis of the Visionary Autobiography of a Fourteenth-Century French Monk

Claire Fanger

MAGIC IN THE MODERN WORLD Strategies of Repression and Legitimization Edited by Edward Bever and Randall Styers

MEDICINE, RELIGION, AND MAGIC IN EARLY STUART ENGLAND Richard Napier's Medical Practice Ofer Hadass

PICATRIX

A Medieval Treatise on Astral Magic Translated by Dan Attrell and David Porreca

MAKING MAGIC IN ELIZABETHAN ENGLAND

Two Texts of Early Modern Vernacular Magic Frank Klaassen

THE LONG LIFE OF MAGICAL OBJECTS
A Study in the Solomonic Tradition
Allegra Infrate

KABBALAH AND SEX MAGIC A Mythical-Ritual Genealogy Marla Segol

The Magic in History series explores the role magic and the occult have played in European culture, religion, science, and politics. Titles in the series bring the resources of cultural, literary, and social history to bear on the history of the magic arts, and they contribute to an understanding of why the theory and practice of magic have elicited fascination at every level of European society. Volumes include both editions of important texts and significant new research in the field.

## SORCERY OR SCIENCE?

CONTESTING KNOWLEDGE AND PRACTICE
IN WEST AFRICAN SUFI TEXTS

ARIELA MARCUS-SELLS

THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY PRESS

UNIVERSITY PARK, PENNSYLVANIA

## Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Marcus-Sells, Ariela, 1985- author.

Title: Sorcery or science? : contesting knowledge and practice in West African Sufi texts / Ariela Marcus-Sells.

Other titles: Magic in History.

Description: University Park, Pennsylvania : The Pennsylvania State University Press, [2022] | Series: Magic in History | Includes bibliographical references

Summary: "Examines the works of two Sufi Muslim scholars, Sīdi al-Mukhtār al-Kuntī (d. 1811) and his son Sīdi Muḥammad (d. 1826), focusing on their cosmology and metaphysics of the realm of the unseen, in relation to the

history of magical discourses within the Hellenistic and Arabo-Islamic worlds"—Provided by publisher.

Identifiers: LCCN 2021054031 | ISBN 9780271092294 (cloth)
Subjects: LCSH: Kuntī, al-Mukhtār ibn Aḥmad, 1729 or 1730—1811. | Kuntī,
Muḥammad bin al-Mukhtār, 1765—1826. | Islamic magic—Sahara—History. |

Classification: LCC BP190.5.M25 M36 2022 LC record available at https://lccn.loc.gov/2021054031

Copyright © 2022 Ariela Marcus-Sells

All rights reserved

Sufism—Sahara—History.

Printed in the United States of America

Published by The Pennsylvania State University Press, University Park, PA 16802–1003

The Pennsylvania State University Press is a member of the Association of University Presses.

It is the policy of The Pennsylvania State University Press to use acid-free paper. Publications on uncoated stock satisfy the minimum requirements of American National Standard for Information Sciences—Permanence of Paper for Printed Library Material, ANSI 239.48–1992.

To my parents, Janet and Michael