



Season of Crimson Blossoms by Abubakar Adam Ibrahim

Glossary of Hausa/Arabic words and phrases

<i>A dawo lafiya</i>	<i>May you return well</i>
<i>A gaishe ki</i>	<i>Salute you</i>
<i>Ai</i>	<i>(exclamation)</i>
<i>Aikin banza!</i>	<i>Rubbish! Nonsense!</i>
<i>Aikin banza da wofi</i>	<i>utter nonsense</i>
<i>Aikin banza kawai</i>	<i>baloney, rubbish</i>
<i>Alhamdulillah</i>	<i>Praise be to Allah</i>
<i>aljannah</i>	<i>heaven</i>
<i>Allahu Akbar</i>	<i>Allah is Great</i>
<i>Allah ya bada sa'a</i>	<i>Good luck, May God grant you good fortune</i>
<i>Allah ya isa</i>	<i>God is sufficient for me, God will stand for me or is sufficient to avenge me</i>
<i>Allah ya jikan shi</i>	<i>May Allah have mercy on him</i>
<i>Allah ya kyauta</i>	<i>May Allah mend, improve, or better (depends on context, either as a prayer for God to improve an awful situation or with regards to a person, an expression of resignation over his bad conduct).</i>
<i>Allah ya raya</i>	<i>(prayer for newborn) May God let him/her live</i>
<i>Allah sarki</i>	<i>Allah is king</i>
<i>Allah ya sauwake</i>	<i>May God forbid</i>
<i>Allah ya taimake ka</i>	<i>May God help you</i>
<i>Allah ya tsine ma, tsohon mazinaci</i>	<i>May Allah curse you, old fornicator</i>

<i>almajiri</i>	<i>a student of an Islamic school who has been sent away from home to undertake religious instruction</i>
<i>Ankara</i>	<i>African wax print cloth/fabric</i>
<i>Atoh!</i>	<i>(exclamation)</i>
<i>azara</i>	<i>type of wood, usually from coconut tree, used to make rafters in old buildings.</i>
<i>babban riga</i>	<i>(kind of loose voluminous gown worn by men)</i>
<i>barawo</i>	<i>thief</i>
<i>barka</i>	<i>congratulatory visit</i>
<i>Barka da zuwa</i>	<i>Welcome</i>
<i>Biko</i>	<i>entreaties, especially for a married woman to return to her matrimonial home</i>
<i>Bilkisu Mai Gadon Zinari</i>	<i>[Book Title] Bilkisu, Owner of the Golden Bed</i>
<i>biri da wando</i>	<i>monkey with pants</i>
<i>ciwon tsatsaye</i>	<i>mild illness</i>
<i>dakali</i>	<i>a platform, usually at the front of the house, for sitting</i>
<i>dan Allah</i>	<i>Please, For God</i>
<i>dan daudu</i>	<i>transvestite</i>
<i>dan iska</i>	<i>bastard, someone of loose morals, fiend</i>
<i>dan iska kawai</i>	<i>(insult) common bastard</i>
<i>dan shegiya</i>	<i>son of a bastard</i>
<i>dan ubanshi</i>	<i>(insult)</i>
<i>dan uban mutum</i>	<i>(usually insult) For the sake of someone's father</i>
<i>Fa</i>	<i>(exclamation)</i>
<i>Gagarabadau</i>	<i>Title of a famous Hausa song by Mamman Shata</i>
<i>gaskiya</i>	<i>true</i>
<i>gyale</i>	<i>veil</i>
<i>Haba!</i>	<i>(exclamation)</i>
<i>Haji</i>	<i>A Muslim who has been to Mecca as a pilgrim (male)</i>

<i>Hajiya</i>	<i>A Muslim who has been to Mecca as a pilgrim (female)</i>
<i>Hajiya, sai na ci ubanshi, wallahi</i>	<i>Hajiya, I will screw his father, I swear</i>
<i>Ina kwana</i>	<i>Good morning / How did you sleep?</i>
<i>Ina wuni</i>	<i>Good day / How is your day?</i>
<i>Inna lillahi wa inna ilaihi raji'un</i>	<i>(Arabic) To Allah we belong and to Him we shall return</i>
<i>Innahu min Sulaimana, wa innahu bismillahir rahmanir Rahim</i>	<i>(Arabic, verse from the Qur'an) Indeed it came from Sulaiman (Solomon), and it (starts) In the name of the most Compassionate, the most Merciful.</i>
<i>Innal hamda lillah</i>	<i>(Arabic) Verily all praise to Allah</i>
<i>Insha Allah</i>	<i>(Arabic) If Allah wills it</i>
<i>iskanci</i>	<i>nonsense, depravity</i>
<i>Iskanci kawai!</i>	<i>Arrant nonsense!</i>
<i>Jazakallahu khaira</i>	<i>(Arabic) May Allah reward you with good</i>
<i>ka gane ko?</i>	<i>do you understand? (to male)</i>
<i>ka ji?</i>	<i>do you hear? (to male)</i>
<i>ka ji ko?</i>	<i>do you hear?</i>
<i>Ka yi hakuri mana</i>	<i>Do be patient, please</i>
<i>Kai</i>	<i>(Exclamation. Could also refer to 'you', masculine.)</i>
<i>Kai bari dan uban mutum</i>	<i>Let it be, God damn someone's father</i>
<i>Kan buran ubannan</i>	<i>(vulgar)</i>
<i>Kasko</i>	<i>kitchen utensil</i>
<i>Kawai</i>	<i>only</i>
<i>Ke</i>	<i>You (feminine)</i>
<i>kin gane ko?</i>	<i>do you understand? (to female)</i>
<i>kin ji?</i>	<i>do you hear? (to female)</i>
<i>kin ji ko</i>	<i>did you hear? (feminine)</i>
<i>kin wuni lafiya</i>	<i>evening greeting</i>
<i>Ko</i>	<i>(exclamation)</i>

<i>ko ba haka ba?</i>	<i>is that so?</i>
<i>ko ba haka ba ne</i>	<i>or is that not so?</i>
<i>ko kadan</i>	<i>not even a little</i>
<i>kuma</i>	<i>again</i>
<i>kunya</i>	<i>(depending on context) shame, modesty</i>
<i>Kutuman buran uba</i>	<i>(vulgar, expletive)</i>
<i>Kwarai, kwarai</i>	<i>Sure, sure</i>
<i>kwari</i>	<i>dummy (usually made of wood for fitting caps)</i>
<i>kwari kuwa</i>	<i>certainly, indeed</i>
<i>La ilaha ilallahu</i>	<i>In the name of God</i>
<i>laa taghdab</i>	<i>(Arabic) do not be angry</i>
<i>ladan noma</i>	<i>Usually a wife one marries as a reward for cultivating her father's land</i>
<i>Lafiya</i>	<i>Depends on context. In response to a greeting it means fine.</i>
<i>Lafiya lau</i>	<i>Fine, very well</i>
<i>Lallai kam!</i>	<i>(exclamation)</i>
<i>Lallai</i>	<i>(exclamation)</i>
<i>Madalla! Madalla!</i>	<i>Very good! Very good!</i>
<i>maganan banza</i>	<i>nonsense or rubbish talk</i>
<i>Maigida</i>	<i>Husband, head of household master, lord</i>
<i>maiwanki</i>	<i>washerman</i>
<i>majalisa</i>	<i>hangout</i>
<i>makamashi</i>	<i>materials used to keep a fire burning, e.g. rubber, paper, wood)</i>
<i>mara kunya</i>	<i>shameless person</i>
<i>mara kunya kawai</i>	<i>shameless girl</i>
<i>Masha Allah</i>	<i>As Allah wills it</i>
<i>Mehn!</i>	<i>(English slang) men!</i>

<i>Me Ne Ne Aibi Na?</i>	<i>[Book title] What is My Fault?</i>
<i>misilla</i>	<i>hairdressing utensil</i>
<i>munafiki kawai</i>	<i>hypocrite</i>
<i>munafurci kawai</i>	<i>hypocrisy</i>
<i>Nagode sosai</i>	<i>Thank you very much</i>
<i>Nagode kwarai</i>	<i>Thank you very much</i>
<i>Oh, la ilaha ilallahu</i>	<i>An exclamation (in Arabic)</i>
<i>Qalbun saleem</i>	<i>(Arabic) Pure heart</i>
<i>Qassasul Anbiya</i>	<i>Arabic, book title – ‘Stories of the Prophets’</i>
<i>Reza dodon kwalawa</i>	<i>Reza, monster (terror) of the police</i>
<i>saboda Allah fa</i>	<i>For Allah’s sake!</i>
<i>saboda Allah mana</i>	<i>For God’s sake</i>
<i>Sai da safe</i>	<i>See you in the morning, good night</i>
<i>Sai na badda ka, da kai da zuri’ar ka</i>	<i>I will wipe you out, (make you disappear) you and your lineage</i>
<i>samari</i>	<i>young man</i>
<i>Sannu</i>	<i>General greeting</i>
<i>Sannu da aiki</i>	<i>Well done</i>
<i>Sannu, Musa. Nagode ko.</i>	<i>Well done, Moses. Thank you.</i>
<i>Sara daya ya zub da goma</i>	<i>(With) one slash, (he) cuts down ten</i>
<i>shagali</i>	<i>pleasure, delight</i>
<i>shegu</i>	<i>bastards</i>
<i>shikenan</i>	<i>that’s all</i>
<i>sholisho</i>	<i>Kind of gum (solution) used to patch tyres sucked by junkies (a corruption of the English word solution)</i>
<i>So ko Kiyayya?</i>	<i>(Book title in Hausa) Love or hate</i>
<i>soyayya</i>	<i>love</i>

<i>Subhanallahi</i>	<i>Glory be to God</i>
<i>Sulaimana</i>	<i>Solomon</i>
<i>Sura 'An Nisa'</i>	<i>(Arabic) Chapter in the Qur'an 'The Women'</i>
<i>ta'aziya</i>	<i>condolence</i>
<i>tauri</i>	<i>practice of taking medicine believed to make one impenetrable by metal</i>
<i>Toh</i>	<i>OK, good.</i>
<i>Toh, Allah ya bada sa'a</i>	<i>Ok. Good luck.</i>
<i>Tsinannu kawai</i>	<i>Cursed ones!</i>
<i>Ustaz</i>	<i>(Arabic) scholar</i>
<i>Wa alaikumus salaam</i>	<i>and may peace be on you</i>
<i>Wai</i>	<i>(exclamation)</i>
<i>Wallahi</i>	<i>By Allah</i>
<i>Wallahi fa</i>	<i>By Allah!</i>
<i>Wallahi kuwa</i>	<i>By Allah indeed!</i>
<i>wankin</i>	<i>(wankin glass) glass washing. A kind of cap washing at the end of which the cap gleams.</i>
<i>wanzam</i>	<i>local barber</i>
<i>Wara, wara</i>	<i>Hausa slang for Take off! Run! Flee!</i>
<i>Wata rana zan ci ubanka, ka gane ko</i>	<i>someday, I will screw your father, do you understand?</i>
<i>Wawiya kawai</i>	<i>Fool. Bloody fool.</i>
<i>Wayyo!</i>	<i>(exclamation)</i>
<i>Ya Salam</i>	<i>(Arabic) (exclamation) broadly 'Dear God'</i>
<i>Yallabai</i>	<i>(form of address for a respected person)</i>
<i>'yan daba</i>	<i>thugs</i>
<i>yan iska kawai</i>	<i>plural of dan iska</i>
<i>'yar iska</i>	<i>depraved woman or girl</i>
<i>'yar gulma kawai</i>	<i>bloody gossip!</i>

yaya dai?

what is it?

yar gulma

gossip (feminine)

Yauwa

(exclamation) broadly 'Yes!'

zalla

just, only, purely ('Action zalla' = just action)

zauna mana

Come on, sit down

zina

(Arabic) Fornication