

# CHIMPO ABDULWAHAID IN MOROCCAN MORE ROLLIN'

*by Greg Hildebrand*

A CHIMPO NAMED ABDULWAHAID, A CHIMPO WITH NO CONSTRAINTS ON HIS TIME, NO JOB, NO WIFE, NO PROSPECTS, WOULD SPEND HIS DAYS DANCING WITH WILD ABANDON IN THE SQUARE NEAR WHERE HE LIVED IN MOROCCO. WHEN HE WAS ASKED WHY, HE WOULD MOTION TOWARDS HIS INVISIBLE MASTER AND SAY, "MY MASTER WISHES IT."

SOMEDAYS HE WOULD DANCE FOR ONLY A SHORT WHILE, BUT ON OTHER DAYS HE WOULD DANCE AND DANCE AND DANCE. AS THE CROWDS WATCHED HE PUSHED HIMSELF UNTIL HE WOULD COLLAPSE FROM EXHAUSTION ONTO A POOL OF SWEAT. THEN THE CROWD WOULD WALK AWAY TO SEARCH FOR SOMETHING ELSE THAT MIGHT HOLD THEIR INTEREST.

A SHOPKEEP WHO HAD BEEN MARRIED TO A CHIMPO FOR A FEW MONTHS YEARS PREVIOUS (TILL SHE LOST HIM IN A BAR BET) TOOK PITY ON ABDUL AND WAS SADDENED BY THE WAY OTHERS LET HIM TREAT HIMSELF. SHE SECRETLY WORRIED THAT ABDUL MIGHT DANCE HIMSELF TO DEATH. AS MUCH AS THAT SADDENED HER, WHAT BOTHERED HER EVEN MORE WAS THAT SHE SUPPOSED THAT THAT WAS WHAT THE CROWDS WERE HOPING TO SEE. SO, WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE AUTHORITIES, SHE HAD HIM LOCKED UP, FOR HIS OWN GOOD. FORCED REST, AND SOME FOOD, SHE FELT SURE IT WOULD DO HIM WONDERS. AS HE WAS BEING TAKEN AWAY HE PLEADED WITH THE AUTHORITIES, "I THINK YOU'VE GOT THE WRONG CHIMPO, MY MASTER WANTS ME TO DANCE!"

BUT SINCE ABDUL WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO COULD SEE HIS MASTER, THE AUTHORITIES JUST SMILED AT ABDUL AS THEY LED HIM OFF. THE SHOPKEEP WAS SMILING AS SHE WATCHED THROUGH HER WINDOW, BELIEVING THAT SHE WAS DOING WHAT WAS BEST FOR ABDUL.

ABDUL WAS SITTING ON HIS BED IN HIS CELL THAT NIGHT WHEN HIS MASTER APPEARED TO HIM, STANDING JUST OUTSIDE OF ABDUL'S CELL.

"YES, MASTER," ABDUL SAID ALOUD AS HE STOOD.

THE GUYS IN THE CELLS ON EITHER SIDE OF ABDUL WERE READY TO THROW SOME INSULTS ABDUL'S WAY UNTIL THEY HEARD THE DOOR TO ABDUL'S CELL OPENING, THEY STOOD IN THEIR CELLS IN SILENT DISBELIEF AS THEY WATCHED ABDUL WALK OUT AS HE WAS SAYING, "DANCE, YES, MASTER."

THE NEXT MORNING THE AUTHORITIES RE-APPREHENDED ABDUL AS HE WAS DANCING IN THE SQUARE. THEY TOLD THE SHOPKEEP THEY DIDN'T KNOW HOW HE COULD HAVE ESCAPED BUT ASSURED HER THAT THEY'D LOCK HIM UP GOOD THIS TIME, AND THEY ESCORTED HIM AWAY AGAIN, IGNORING ABDUL'S PLEAS. THAT NIGHT HIS MASTER APPEARED AGAIN AS THE GUYS IN THE OTHER CELLS HID UNDER THEIR BEDS WITH FINGERS IN THEIR EARS AND THEIR EYES SHUT TIGHT.

WHEN ABDUL WAS FOUND DANCING IN THE SQUARE ON THE THIRD DAY, SOME IN TOWN STARTED WHISPERING "MIRACLE." WORD SPREAD QUICKLY AND IN NO TIME AT ALL HUGE CROWDS HAD GATHERED IN HOPES OF WITNESSING, OR AT LEAST BEING CLOSE TO, A MIRACLE. ABDUL WAITED PATIENTLY IN HIS CELL AS ONLOOKERS WHO HAD FILLED THE JAILHOUSE WAITED IMPATIENTLY. THOSE WHO WERE WAITING OUTSIDE IN THE STREET WERE OF ALL STRIPES AND COLORS. SOME PRAYED HOLDING CANDLES, SOME CHEERED HOLDING BOTTLES. AS ABDUL WAS WAITING THOSE WHO HAD GATHERED INSIDE ASKED HIM

QUESTIONS. "WHY DOESN'T THE MASTER REVEAL HIMSELF TO ALL?" AND "WHY DOES THE MASTER LIKE TO WATCH YOU DANCE?" AND "WHERE DO YOU THINK HE GOES WHEN HE DISAPPEARS?" TO THESE AND ALL THE OTHER QUESTIONS ABDUL TOLD THEM, "I HAVE NO IDEA." AFTER A WHILE THE QUESTIONS STOPPED AND THEY ALL WAITED IN NEAR SILENCE, EXCEPT FOR SOME MUMBLED CHANTING AND OCCASIONAL BITS OF BOISTEROUS REVELERY SEEPING IN FROM OUTSIDE. HOURS WENT BY. ABDUL SAT UP ON HIS BED CAUSING MANY WHO HAD ASSEMBLED TO OPEN THEIR EYES WIDE. "YES, MASTER, TIME TO DANCE." THE DOOR TO ABDUL'S CELL SEEMED TO MAGICALLY OPEN. AS MANY IN THE WIDE EYED CROWD GASPED, ABDUL WALKED PAST THEM, AND AS HE PASSED, A FEW OF THE WOMEN FAINTED. ONE OF THE MEN WET HIMSELF. SOME WERE FROZEN IN SHOCK AND DISBELIEF, BUT THE REST FOLLOWED ABDUL INTO THE SQUARE, ALL OF THEM DANCING, OR TRYING TO DANCE, AND ABDUL COULD SEE RIGHT AWAY THAT THIS IMPROMPTU DANCE PARTY WAS BRINGING DISPLEASURE IF NOT DISCOMFORT TO HIS MASTER. ABDUL DANCED ALL THE HARDER TO TRY TO DRAW HIS MASTER'S ATTENTION AWAY FROM THE OTHERS, BUT IT DIDN'T WORK AND RIGHT BEFORE HE WAS FREED, THE LAST LOOK HE EVER SAW ON HIS MASTER'S FACE WAS ONE OF ANGER, DISGUST, AND REGRET AS HIS MASTER DISAPPEARED FOR THE LAST TIME.