

عرق الشيتا

Sweat Rain

by Hakim Belabbes

Synopsis:

M'Barek struggles not to lose his land; his raison d'être. Ida, his wife, and the cornerstone of the family, struggles to carry her husband's burden, in silence. Ayoub grazes his father's sheep, and talks to the fairies. And his grandfather incessantly calls out his dead wife's name; Rahma.

Director's Statement:

This tale was inspired by an encounter, 17 years ago, one hot summer morning, with a small farmer, in the filmmaker's hometown of Bejaad, in Morocco.

Treatment:

On an ancestral piece of land in central Morocco, M'barek, a small farmer lives with his pregnant wife, Aida, his old sick father and his son, Ayoub, an adolescent with Down Syndrome.

A drought is in full swing, and to deal with it, M'barek spends his time trying to dig a well, that he hopes, could lessen the impact of the drought on his land.

M'barek also owes money to the Crédit Agricole Bank. He can barely provide for his family, and his wife is pregnant.

Ayoub lives in his parallel world. He is dreamy, and spends his time between the forest where he herds the small family flock of sheep, and a school where he does not seem to learn much, given his condition.

Ida does her best to hold the balance within the family. In her role as a mother and a wife, she tries to alleviate her husband's anxieties as he faces a deadline to pay his debt.

When everything fails for M'barek to find a solution to his problem, Aida suggests he go see his cousin, Omar, who may help them. But Laarbi, a friend of M'barek's, has another idea in store.

M'barek says nothing of what he plans to do. While his wife and his father both believe that he will go see his cousin to ask for a loan, he is, in fact, determined to proceed with what Laarbi advised him to do.

During the absence of M'barek, Aida's has a miscarriage. When M'barek returns he says nothing about what happened to him.

Early one morning, while he tries to resume digging his well, M'barek ends up dead in it. Ayoub tries, then, to take over, and continues his father's work.

Short Bio:

Hakim Belabbes is an award winning Moroccan-American independent filmmaker. Among his films are:

Weight of The Shadow (2014)

Defining Love: A Failed Attempt (2013)

Fragments (2011)

Boiling Dreams (2010)

These Hands... (2008)

Why O' Sea? (2006)

Threads (2003)

A Nest in the Heat (2001)

Credits:

Amine Ennaji	M'barek
Fatima-Ezzahra Bennaceur	Aida
Ayoub Khalifaoui	Ayoub
Hamid Najah	Grandfather
Moulay El-Hassan Zahraoui	Teacher
Mohamed Mahraoui Tziri	Imam
Hamid Belabbes	Bank Director
Othmane Ragoub	M'Qaddem
Jalal Abdelghani	Visitor
M'Barek Assam	Neighbour
Written & Directed by	Hakim Belabbes
Producer	Nabil Ayouch
Executive Producer	Amine Benjelloun
Cinematography	Amine Messadi
Editing	Hakim Belabbes Agnes Starczewski
Sound Design & Mix	Said Radi Mark Wilkening
Post-Production Supervision, Visual Effects & Color Grading	Peter Cohen
Music	Amir Sayed Al Hassan Mohammed Ali Essoudani

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