

RAQASSAT ES-SAN'A  
(Yemenite Jewish)

*Bill Burke*

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Filmed in an immigrant village, Abou Shusha, near Kibbutz Mishmar Ha'emmer.  
Presented by Bill Burke at the 1976 Mendocino Folklore Camp.

Music: FR-4114-B 4/4 meter for Dance #1; 2/4 meter for Dance #2.

Formation: Separate M's and W's lines. Hands held palm to palm, elbows bent at R angles. Elbows should not overlap, and should be close to body.

Dance #1

Meas. STEP I - Basic (cross-over)

- 1 R crosses over L to step beside L (1), L to side and slightly back (2),  
R back (3), L crosses over R (4)  
2-8 Repeat meas 1 seven more times.

STEP II - Turns with arms overhead

- 1 Cross R over L letting go of hands and swinging both arms fwd (1); step L  
cont. turn CCW raising arms overhead (2); step R cont. turn (3), step L in  
place facing original direction (4), arms down (&)  
2-4 Repeat meas 1, Step II three more times

STEP III - Walk, original arm hold

- 1 Step fwd R (1), step tog L (2), step back R (3), step tog L (4)  
2-4 Repeat meas 1, Step III three more times

STEP IV - Duck walk

- 1 Small leap fwd on R (1), full squat, knees straight fwd, stepping L (2);  
Staying down step fwd R (3), step fwd L still in full squat (4)  
2 Full up, step back R (1), walk back L (2), step back R (3), step tog. (4)  
3-4 Repeat meas 1-2, Step IV

STEP V - Basic (cross-over)

Repeat Step I.

STEP VI - Turn with shldr hold

- 1 Step R over L turning to L, placing R hand on R shldr and L hand on L shldr  
of person to left (1). Step L, cont. turn letting go of shldr (2). Step  
R still turning CCW and take same shldr hold with person that originally was  
on R (3). Step fwd L, letting go of shldr and connecting in original pos (4).  
2-6 Repeat turn with shldr hold, five more times.

DANCE #2

Basic step 1,&,ah, 2,&,ah

- 1 Sit to L, bending L knee (1&); leap on to R (ah); cross L over R,  
bend R knee slightly (2)  
2 Sit to R, bending R knee (1&); small leap on to L (ah); cross R  
over L bending L knee slightly (2)

/continued ...

Raqassat Es-San'a, Cont'd...Meas. Squat

- 1 Sit to L bending L knee (1); leap onto R (2); touch L ft front (&)
- 2 Full squat, L ft in front (1); pull up wt on R (2); hop back on R (&)
- 3 Step L, swing R in front of L (1); leap out to R on R (2); touch L fwd (&)
- 4 Repeat meas 2.

Turn

- 1 Step L swinging R fwd (1); step R to R (2); step fwd L (&), Turning so R shldr is to front
- 2 Letting go of hands and putting hand on shldrs of person to L, step R to R side (1); rock onto L (2); rock onto R (&)
- 3 Step to L and back on L, hands down (1); facing back, rock L on L (2); rock R (&)
- 4 Step R facing person to R, both hands on this person's shldrs (1); rock L (2); rock R (&)

## Pattern of the dance:

4 meas --- Drum intro  
 8 meas --- 4 basic steps  
 4 meas --- 2 squat steps  
 8 meas --- 2 turn steps  
 4 meas --- 2 squat steps  
 8 meas --- 4 basic steps  
 4 meas --- 2 squat steps  
 8 meas --- 2 turn steps