

Araceli GONZÁLEZ VÁZQUEZ, [Universidad del País Vasco UPV/EHU](#), Istikhara : praying to God, sleeping at the mausoleum and encountering the saint. A reflection on the politics of communication with the dead in northern Morocco

In this paper, I explore the ritual practice of *istikhara* among the Jbala of northern Morocco. Istikhara is both referred to a Muslim prayer of proper guidance directed to God, and to the practice of « dream incubation », particularly by sleeping at the mausoleum of the female or male saint. Focusing upon ethnographic fieldwork amongst Jbalan peasants, I reflect on the politics of communication between the alive and the dead in a rural setting.