

Yaraya (יה ריה)

(Israel)



This dance is an excellent example of cultural mixing and fluidity that happens across adjacent borders. The song is in Arabic, written and sung by Algerians, but the dance is in the Moroccan style, choreographed by the son of Moroccan immigrants to Israel.

Each measure has 2 beats, and each phrase has 5 measures. It is easiest to count the dance in 10.

Arranged by:	Gadi Bitton	Year:	2000
Pronunciation:	YA rye-YA	Translation:	The Traveler
Meter:	2/4	Composer:	Dahmane El Harrachi
		Lyricist:	Dahmane El Harrachi
		Singer:	Rachid Taha

Formation: Circle, hands not held

Steps & Styling: Moroccan. Smooth with sharp accents. Arms and shoulders move freely.

Meas 2/4 meter

Pattern

8 meas INTRODUCTION. *No action.*

I. FIGURE 1: CHORUS

Right foot free, facing center.

1 With arms up, elbow bent, hands at shoulder height, palms facing center, sway R (1), sway L (2).

2 R cross in front of L (1), L step to side (&), R cross in front (2). Arms come down to your side, moving forward along a circular path centered at the elbow.

3-4 Repeat meas 1-2, opp ftwk, same hands.

5 Bring R foot next to L, twist with heels to R (1), twist with heels to L (2). Arms up, elbows, hands at shoulder height hanging loosely from the wrist.

6 R steps fwd to ctr, slightly to the R (1), L steps next to R (2). Clap on cts 1, 2, in the Moroccan style: hands slightly above the head, fingers spread, striking the palms and balls of the hand.

7 Repeat meas 6 with opp ftwk.

8 Small step bkwd R (1), L (2), with hands palms up, over the head, moving R and L.

9 Small step bkwd R (1), L (2), with hands palms up, at waist level, moving R and L.

10 Repeat meas 9.

II. CHORUS: CLAP FORWARD

- 1 Sway R (1), sway L (2), slightly shaking shoulders. Arms are up, elbows bent, hands held loosely at the wrist at shoulder height. Keep arms up through meas 4.
- 2 Cross R over L (1), L to the side (&), R cross in front (2).
- 3-4 Sway L (1), R (2), L (3), R (4).
- 5 L crosses behind (1), R to side (&), L crosses in front (2).
- 6 R to side (1), L crosses behind (2).
- 7 Cha cha: R (1), L (&), R (2), making a 1/2 turn over R to face out.
- 8 L to side (1), R crosses behind (2).
- 9 Cha cha: L (1), R (&), L (2), making a 1/2 turn over L to face in.
- 10 Repeat twists from fig I meas 5.
- 11 Open R to side (1), L cross in front (2).
- 12 Full turn over R shoulder: R (1), L (&), R(2).
- 13 Facing ctr, two steps bkwd: L (1), R (2).
- 14 Back Yemenite: back on L (1), back on R (&), fwd on L (2).
- 15 Step fwd R bringing R hand up and out to the side (1), step fwd L bringing L hand up and out to the side (2).
- 16 Rock fwd on R clapping hands outstretched in front of you in the Moroccan style (1), rock back on L (2).
- 17 Open your body, making a 1/2 turn over the R shoulder to face out, and step on R (1). Rock fwd on L with the outstretched Moroccan clap (2).
- 18 Rock back on R (1). Open body, making a 1/2 turn over the L shoulder to face in, step on L (2).
- 19 Rock fwd on R with outstretched Moroccan clap (1), rock back on L (2).
- 20 Step back on R and rock on it (1), rock on L (2).

Sequence. I, I, II, II.

Presented by Aaron Alpert

Chorus

Ya rayah win msafar trouh taaya wa twali?
Shihal nadmou laabad el ghaflin qablak ou qabli (bis).

Shihal sheft el-boldan el-'amireen wel-borr el-khali?
Shihal dhayya'et awqat w'shihal tzeed ma zal tkhali?
Yal-ghayem fee blad shihal te'ya w'ma tejri.
Beek wa'ed el-qodra wallah zman w'ena ma tedri.

Chorus

O Traveler, where are you going? You will eventually grow
tired and come back home.
Many unwise people have regretted this before you and me.

How often have you seen overpopulated countries and
desolate deserts?
How much time have you lost, and how much more do you
plan to lose?
In the lands of other people, o absent one, you grow sick and
remain ignorant of what's happening.