

Sham keletsi Dam keletsi

(Armenia)

Sham keletsi dam keletsi comes from Vaspourakan, a region East of Lake Van in Anatolia. The title is derived from the original lyrics of the song that was sung to the dance—"I walked to Sham, I walked to Dam." Sham and Dam both refer to the city Damascus. Keletsi means "walked." "I walked to Damascus to find my lover, but I could not find her and cried." Damascus was synonymous with far away. The dance was learned from Arthushat Karapetian.

Pronunciation:

Music: Cassette: Van Geel – Stockton 1996
 CD: Garni-Armenian Dances

2/4 meter

Formation: Lines facing ctr, arms in W-pos, little fingers linked.

Meas

Pattern

6 meas INTRODUCTION. No action.

FIGURE I. slow part

- 1 Step on R to R, forearms move to the R (ct 1); step on L across in front of R, forearms move to the L (ct 2).
- 2 Repeat meas 1.
- 3 Repeat meas 1, ct 1 (ct 1); hop on R while lifting L ft to calf level, arms come back to W-pos (ct 2).
- 4 Stamp fwd on to ctr, arms stretched fwd, elbows slightly bent, shldr making a "shaking" movement (ct 1); stamp fwd on R to ctr, repeating movements of ct 1 (ct 2).
- 5 Step on L in place, arms remaining fwd (ct 1); hop on L while lifting R ft fwd, knee bent 45° (ct 2).
- 6 Repeat meas 5 with opp ftwk.
- 7 Step bkwd on L, turning R heel inward, forearms move to L (ct 1); step bkwd on R, turning L heel inward, forearms move to R (ct 2).
- 8-9 Repeat meas 5-6.
- 10 Leap onto L diag L (L ft turned out) while R chugs fwd until crossed behind L, bending both knees, arms down (ct 1); chug bkwd on R, straightening knees and bouncing on both heels (ct 2); bounce on both heels (ct &).
- 11 Repeat meas 10.
- 12 Step on L in place (ct 1); hop on L, lifting R to calf level (ct 2). During this meas, arms come back to W-pos).

FIGURE II. fast part

Face ctr, arms in W-pos.

- 1 Hop on L, forearms moving to L (ct 1); step on R to R (ct &); step on L across over R, forearms moving to the L (ct 2).
- 2 Repeat meas 1.

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- 3 Hop on L, arms returning to W-pos (ct 1); step on R to R (ct &); hop on R, lifting L ft to calf level (ct 2).
- 4 Repeat Fig I, meas 4. The stamps are heavier.
- 5-6 Repeat Fig I, meas 5-6.
- 7 Skip bkwd on L, turning R heel low, forearms move to the L (ct 1); skip bkwd on R, turning L heel inward, forearms move to R (ct 2).
- 8-12 Repeat Fig I, meas 8-12.

SEQUENCE:

Fig I four times

Fig II two times

Fig I four times

Fig II two times

Presented by Tineke van Geel