This segment was Gbombi’s response to the prompt: “Did you ever think you were going to die?”

Transcription: Baji Gbombi #3: Danger of Death

ìpálé món, ya yema le ya wu.
One day, I was fitting to die.
‘was fitting to’ is my rendering; seems to work here for ‘wanted to’.

Hɔbatugɛ hun a kwɛm minma anɔn.
It was God that pulled me from inside the water.

ɛh... ya lele kwe pɛ.
Eh... I was walking along.
BG gives Mende ngi li jia ma as translation; English is from JP.

ya gbomi núù wàà.
I met a dead person.

wɔ yema le wɔ wu.
He was fitting to die.

yas– ya– yan y a na go ðɛ m go ɣɔɔŋ yɔɔ.
I– I– I myself, I went to go stand over there.

ya ɔ ken.
I look at him.

yambɛ ya le ya ma wu “hééí” Ḥɔbatugɛ-ɔ.
I myself I said: ‘Let me not die, hey, God.’