

[The herbalist \(tc rev\).....2](#)  
[The herbalist/native doctor \(toneless version, mp\).....6](#)

Transcription # 25

**Notes:** This is the second story in the order in which he presented them.

## The herbalist (tc rev)

### nyàndòróm

[do-person-ncm-medicine]

by Amara Camara

màke cəŋ dicey, ɛɛ... awaa, pɛŋkən nun mekən kol.

màkɛ-cəŋ di-cɛ ɛɛ áwà à pɛŋkən nùn m̀nkún kól  
ord-two ncm-def uh okay 1sg reach.boundary?? now stop there

The second one, uh- okay, I have reached a stopping point, let's stop there.

tc: may be related to pèn 'boundary'

mə yema si fələn

m̀ yemá s̄i fəl-ùn

you want we stop-mid

Do you want to stop?

aŋ! si fələn nuŋ, agbendi pərən.

ń-ń s̄i fəl̀n nùn à gbén-d̄i p̀rən  
interj 1pl stop now 1sg finish-perf forget

Yes, let's stop now, I've completely forgotten!

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awa, yomu yi pum wə kace lə deli wə ketem.

áwà yóm ù-nyĩ pòm ẁ kácè  
alright grandfather ncm-1pl some 3sg formerly

One of our grandfathers

l̀ lél ĩ-ẁ kètèm

pro name ncm-3sg Ketem

whose name was Ketem,

wonɛɛ nróm yo maten ko tifələ nma ceŋ tumo;

ẁné ñ-róm yo màtən k̀ ò-f̀l̀ ñ-mà c̀-én tún ỳ  
dem ncm-cure prt? hide to ncm-world emph-pro aux-neg find rel

The man's cures were hidden to the world. There was no medicine that he could not find.

mba, fə nɔ wu ye.

mbà f́ ń-ẁ-yé

all right must peron-dead-emph

Okay, it must be (except when it was) a dead person.

boŋ, kənɔ wole wunɔ rəm, pé - janɔnrəm, wunɔ

b̀n k̀ǹ ẁ lé ẃ-ǹ-róm pé  
alright but 3sg cop dead-people-medicine oops!

nyà-ǹ-ñ-róm ẃ-ǹ

do-person-ncm-medicine      dead-person  
Good, but he was a doctor-for-dead-people, oops! He was a native doctor.

kɔnɔ pɛ wɔ koe dɛdɛ  
kɔnɔ    pɛ    wɔ    kwɛ̀    dɛ̀-ó-dɛ̀  
but    pro    3sg    grab    land-dist-redup  
People would summon him from everywhere

wɔ lɔ ka kɔn ali kɔ ja nrɔm.  
wɔ̀lɔ̀    kà    kó-n    àlì    kò    nyà    ñ-róm  
3sg    past    go-mid    for    go    make    ncm-medicine  
to go make medicine.

kɛrɛ nrɔm [p.55] uŋ wɔ ce gbànsàŋ ŋɔ la.  
kɛ̀rɛ̀    ñ-róm                    ñ-wɔ̀    cè    gbànsàŋ    ŋɔ̀    là  
but    ncm-medicine    ncm-3sg    cop    magic            pro    pro  
But his cures were magical.

nrɔmuŋ wɔ cɔn tibul ta, ta bi.  
ñ-róm                    ñ-wɔ̀    cón    ti-bul            tà    tà    bĩ  
ncm-medicine    ncm-3sg    song    ncm-one    foc    pro    have  
His cures it was one song they had (he accompanied application with singing).

kɛnɛ mɔ̀rɔ̀lɔ̀ŋyi wɔ pɛrɛ ŋɔ lɔy.  
kɛ̀nɛ̀    mɔ̀rɔ̀lɔ̀ŋyi    wɔ̀    pɛ̀rɛ̀    ŋɔ̀lɔ̀  
but    rubbings            3sg    also    pro  
But he also had verses.

nrɔmuŋ wɔ wɔ gbo kɔ ali kɔ dɛrɛk nɔy.  
ñ-róm                    ñ-wɔ̀    wɔ̀    gbó    kò    àlì    kò    dɛ̀rɛ̀k-nò  
ncm-medicine    ncm-3sg    3sg    just    go    for    go    cure-person  
He rubbed his medicines on people

mɔ̀rɔ̀lɔ̀ŋyi wɔ gbɛt! ŋɔ kɔ [...].  
mɔ̀rɔ̀lɔ̀ŋyi    wɔ̀    gbɛ̀t    ŋɔ̀    kò    [...]  
verses    3sg    only    pro    go [...]  
Only his salves [missing part].

bɔlɔ ə puŋ tun koyŋ cɛ. ə semiye mɔ.  
bɔ̀lɔ̀    ù    púŋ    tùn    kòn    cé    ù    sém-ĩ-yé            m̀ò  
and    3sg    rub    bunch    frond    def    3sg    stand-cs-stat    2sg  
And he rubs a bunch of palm fronds. He makes you stand,

xa nak nɔcɛ wɔ la, bɔlɔ n hine,  
xa    ná-k-nò            cé    wɔ̀    là    bɔ̀lɔ̀    ñ    hĩn-yé  
if?    sick-person    def    3sg    pro    and    2sg    lie.down-stat  
if it is the sick person is it, and you are lying down,

tc: xa?

xa ceŋ bə hini, xa n cem bə semi,  
nà cè-én bə hin-i nà ñ cè-én bə sem-ĩ  
with aux-neg can lie.down-cs with 2sg aux-neg can stand-cs  
If you are not able to lie down, if you are not able to stand,

bəlo n hine,  
bəlò ñ hín-yé  
and 2sg lie.down-stat  
then you are lying down,

xa n cem bə semi bəlo n cala,  
nà ñ cè-én bə sèm-ĩ bəlò ñ cál-à  
with 2sg aux-neg can stand-cs and 2sg sit-ev  
if you cannot stand then you sit down.

ə hun ə puŋt ma ko pɛpɛ cɛ ayi.  
ù hùn ù púnt mà kò pèpè cé àyĩ  
3sg come 3sg squish pro to calabash def inside  
He then squishes it inside (against the sides of) the calabash.

i tɔpɛ wəm mɔrɔlaŋyi wə.  
ĩ cáp-yé wə-n mɔrɔlaŋyi wə  
pro start-stat 3sg-emph verses 3sg  
He then begins rubbing the medication.

ya wo sinaŋdoo yaŋka koto bali kuyon̄tomu tabayee. kɔye  
[p.56] kɔte bəre, kɔye, kɔŋpoyna kɔŋ-kaw zoday zada. baŋ, tɔk sɔrne kətene kubu wo  
roku sororoo. nbe nbe, ɔya nbe nbe, woy nbe nbe ye, ɔya nbe nbe. nbe nbe, ɔya nbe  
nbe,  
(no translation)

anya mi, aŋa mi buleŋ- nbe nbe, ɔya nbe nbe,  
à-nyá à-mĩ à-nyá à-mĩ búléŋ, ɔya nbe nbe,  
ncm-peoplencm-my ncm-friend ncm-my all ?  
- my people, my people, everybody - nbe nbe, ɔya nbe nbe,  
-aben ami buleŋ- nbe nbe, ɔya nbe nbe,  
a-ben à-mĩ búléŋ, nbe nbe, ɔya nbe nbe,  
ncm-old ncm-1sg all ?  
my elders all, - nbe nbe, ɔya nbe nbe,

-kodipalacok buleŋ- nbe nbe, ɔya nbe nbe, əwoy nbe nbe, ɔya  
kò dipalacok buleŋ nbe nbe, ɔya nbe nbe, əwoy nbe nbe, ɔya  
ncm Palatugu all  
Palatugu, everybody-

-aṗa mi buleṅ- nbe nbe, ɔya nbe nbe, hali potɔ nɔce wɔ la nbe nbe,  
a-ṗa a-mi buleṅ hálí pòtònò cé wò là  
ncm-friend ncm-my all for white.man def pro pro  
-my people, everybody- nbe nbe, ɔya nbe nbe, this is to the White person, nbe nbe,

hali amara wɔ la nbe nbe, hali mómɔ wɔ la nbe nbe,  
hálí àmárà wò là nbe nbe, hálí mòmò wò là nbe nbe,  
for Amara 3sg pro ? for Momo  
this is to Amara: nbe nbe, this is to Momo: nbe nbe,

hali mari wɔ la nbe nbe, ɔya nbe nbe, woy nbe nbe yo, ɔya nbe nbe.  
this is to Mari: nbe nbe, ɔya nbe nbe, woy nbe nbe yo, ɔya nbe nbe.

awa, si mɛknəṅ kol. ndoye. lɔṅta.  
awa, sǐ mɛkən kól. lò yè. lɔnta.  
okay, 1pl stop there, pro prt *lòntà*  
Let's us stop here. That's it. (The final word is a Temne word usually used at the  
beginning of a story.)

áwà, màmó, ṅóy kèlèṅ.  
áwà màmó ṅó-ĩ kèlèṅ.  
okay thanks pro-ĩ good  
All right, thank you. It's good.

## The herbalist/native doctor (toneless version, mp)

### ᵓᵓᵓᵓᵓᵓ

by Amara Camara

məke cəŋ dicey, ɛɛ... awaa, pɛŋkən nun məkən kol.  
məke cəŋ di-cɛ ɛɛ awa pɛŋkən nun məkən kol  
afterwards/followingtwo/second ncm-def uh alright ? ? stop there  
Afterwards comes the second, ehh... Let me stop here.

mə yema si fələn?  
mə yema si fələn  
you want westop  
Do you want to stop?

aŋ! si fələn nuŋ, agbendi pərən.  
aŋ si fələn nuŋ a gben-di pərən  
exclamation westop ? I finish-perf forget  
Yes, let's stop, I've forgotten!

(Story)

awa, yomu yi pum wə kace lə deli wə ketem.  
awa yomu yi pum wə kace lə deli wə ketem  
alright grandfather our some 3sg in the past be name hisKetem  
There was one of our great grand-fathers whose name was Ketem.

wonɛɛ nrəm yo maten ko tifələ nma cəŋ tumə;  
wonɛɛ n-rəm yo maten ko ti-fələ n ma cɛ-ŋ tum-ə  
that one ncm-medicine prthide in/at/on ncm-world ? it aux-neg ?-?  
There was no cure in the world that this man couldn't find.

nba, fə nə wu ye.  
nba fə nə wu ye  
alright except person dead ?  
Except for a dead person.

boŋ, kənə wole wunə rəm, pɛ - ᵓᵓᵓᵓᵓᵓ, wunə  
boŋ kənə wə lɛ wunə rəm pɛ ᵓᵓᵓᵓᵓᵓ wunə  
alright but 3sg be doctor for dead people oops!<sup>1</sup> native doctor dead-person  
Alright, but he was a doctor for dead people, oops, he was a native doctor (for dead  
people?)

kənə pɛ wə koe dede wə lə ka kən ali kə ᵓᵓ nrəm.

<sup>1</sup> The storyteller makes a lapsus linguae

kənə pɛ wə koe dɛdɛ wə lə ka kən alikəɲa nrəm  
but imp 3sg pick everywhere 3sg there ? go to go make medicine  
People would call him from everywhere to go and cure them.

kɛrɛ nrəmɯŋ<sup>2</sup> wə cɛ gbaŋsaŋ ŋə la.  
kɛrɛ nrəmɯŋ wə cɛ gbaŋsaŋ ŋə la  
but medicine hisaux ? it be?<sup>3</sup>  
But his cures were not just like that.<sup>4</sup>

nrəmɯŋ wə cən tibul ta, ta bi.  
nrəmɯŋ wə cən ti-bul ta bi  
medicines hissong ncm-one nc.pro have  
His cures had one song.

kɛnɛ mərəlaŋyi wə pɛrɛ ŋə lɔy.  
kɛnɛ mərəlaŋyi wə pɛrɛ ŋə lə  
but verse? hisalso it loc  
But there were also verses.<sup>5</sup>

nrəmɯŋ wə wə gbo kə ali kə dɛrɛk nɔy.  
nrəmɯŋ wə wə gbo kə ali kə dɛrɛk nɔ  
medicines his3sg just go to to rub person  
He rubbed his medicines on people

mərəlaŋyi wə gbɛt! ŋə kə [missing part].  
mərəlaŋyi wə gbɛt! ŋə kə []  
verses hisonly it go []  
and just recited his verses [missing part].

bələ ə puŋ tun kɔyŋ cɛ. ə sɛmiyɛ mə.  
bələ ə puŋ tun kɔyŋ cɛ ə sɛmi-yɛ mə  
and 3sg pound?/chop/break looked for fruntsdef 3sg stand-? 2sg  
And looked for and prepared dried palm frunts. He would make you stand,

xa nak nɔcɛ wə la, bələ n hine,  
xa nak nɔ-cɛ wə la bələ n hin-ɛ  
if? sick person-def nc.pro be and 2sg lie (down)-?  
if you are the sick person, and lie down.

xa cɛŋ bə hini, xa n cɛm bə sɛmi, bələ n hine,  
xa cɛ-ŋ bə hin-i xa n cɛ-n bə sɛm-i bələ n hin-ɛ

<sup>2</sup> I'm not sure if this should be transcribed this way. Maybe this [u] is just epenthesis between the noun rəm and the morpheme ŋ in nrəm ŋ wə

<sup>3</sup> This structure appears often. It seems to be formed by a noun class pronoun + la (kə la, ŋə la, ma la).

<sup>4</sup> fb: But his medicines were not just like that; He was miraculous in his work.

<sup>5</sup> fb: But he was also having some words that he recites and rubs on the whole external parts of the sick person.

if? aux-neg can lie down-? if? 2sg aux-neg can stand-? and 2sg lie (down)-?

If you cannot lie, if you cannot stand, and you lie down,

xa n cem bɔ semi bɔlɔ n cala,  
xa n ce-n bɔ sem-i bɔlɔ n cal-a  
if? 2sg aux-neg can stand-? and 2sg sit (down)-?  
if you cannot stand you sit.

ə hun ə puŋt ma ko pɛpɛ cɛ ayi.  
ə hun ə puŋt ma ko pɛpɛ cɛ ayi  
he come 3sg put? it/them to calabash def inside  
He then put it in the calabash.

i tɔpɛ wɔm mɔrɔlɔŋyi wɔ.  
i tɔp-ɛ wɔm mɔrɔlɔŋyi wɔ  
he start-? now verses his  
He starts now his rubbing action and verses<sup>6</sup>,

'ya wo sinaŋdoo yaŋka koto bali kuyɔŋtomu tabayee. kɔye kɔtɛ bɛrɛ, kɔye, kɔŋpɔyna  
koŋ-kaw zodoy zada. baŋ, tɔk sɔrne kɔtene kubu woroku sororoo. nbe nbe, ɔya nbe  
nbe, woy nbe nbe ye, ɔya nbe nbe. nbe nbe, ɔya nbe nbe,

(no translation)

-aŋa mi, aŋa mi buleŋ- nbe nbe, ɔya nbe nbe,  
a-ŋa a-mi a-ŋa a-mi buleŋ  
ncm-people ncm-my ncm-friend ncm-my all  
- my people, my people, everybody - nbe nbe, ɔya nbe nbe,

-aben ami<sup>7</sup> buleŋ- nbe nbe, ɔya nbe nbe,  
a-ben a-mi buleŋ  
ncm-old ncm-my all  
my elders, everybody- nbe nbe, ɔya nbe nbe,

-kodipalacok buleŋ- nbe nbe, ɔya nbe nbe, əwoy nbe nbe, ɔya  
ko-dipalacok buleŋ  
ncm-palatugu all  
Palatugu, everybody- nbe nbe, ɔya nbe nbe, əwoy nbe nbe, ɔya

-aŋa mi buleŋ- nbe nbe, ɔya nbe nbe, hali poto nɔcɛ wɔ la nbe nbe,  
a-ŋa a-mi buleŋ hali poto nɔ-cɛ wɔ la  
ncm-friend ncm-my all for White ncm-def nc.pro be  
-my people, everybody- nbe nbe, ɔya nbe nbe, this is to the White person, nbe nbe,

hali amara wɔ la nbe nbe, hali mɔmɔ wɔ la nbe nbe,  
this is to Amara: nbe nbe, this is to Momo: nbe nbe,

<sup>6</sup> fb now says “accents”

<sup>7</sup> The most common form is ‘aben acɛ’; however, we find this expression again in Hamidou’s text.



hali mari wɔ la nbe nbe, oya nbe nbe, woy nbe nbe yo, oya nbe nbe.  
this is to Mari: nbe nbe, oya nbe nbe, woy nbe nbe yo, oya nbe nbe.

awa, si mek nuɲ kol. ndoye. loɲta.  
Let's us stop here. That's it; .

awa, mamɔ, ɲoy keɲeɲ.  
All right, thank you. It's good.