

Mani and English, paragraph by paragraph.....	2
English (mt transcription, no review).....	6

mo, 10 May 05
Tales 6 Palatougou
“How the puff adder got its name”
Record # 21 in Transcriptions
Based on recording # 32

Mani and English, paragraph by paragraph

rimla uce ('the puff adder')

N.B. Material in parentheses are corrections by mp. Material in square brackets is by tc.

p. 115 a cəpi. awa, yan məmɔ bangura ko dipalacok.

nya hun yom ten kene ce ten cəlan kɔla ətən rəmɔla ce. nke nɔɔ fɔe nɔɔ daliya wɔ yɔ.
ədali nyerekən ce bulen kotofɛ, ko cur ba, ugben ye nɔɔ den bulen ufok kulun, ukɔ lɔn
kubɛ, ukɔ pɔnyen, ukɔ yenoyen.

Okay. I am coming to tell a story but it is not any other story [but] is the story of the puff
adder [a viper]. You see, when God created it. He created all the things in the bush, in the
town, he finished everything for them. From the goat, to the sheep go to the monkeys go
to everything.

kɛr sice ba, nɔɔ pɛ ka ce nyalɛ, a abɔniyen. nɔɔ bulen nɔ p. 116
nɔɔ biyen ilel. ah. lɔxɔ pum nya kɔy ko mantɔnyɔni (toyn) nyi nyalɛ, e,
sin si biyen ndeli. palɛ, nya hun sɔtɔ ndel. ndelɔn ce mana nya hun kɔ nyan bulen.
əbɔ niyen nce bulen nya hun kɔ. pɛ kɔ nɔɔ bɛ ndel. palɛ, ya lɛ (?) lɛ ya. pɛ nɔɔ lɛ,
bida ce lɛ, pɛ bɛ bida ce, pɛ bɛ wɔ idel. palɛ nmɔ lɛ bida.
pɛ hun pɛ bɔk bɛ nyerekan ce bulen.
pɛ nɔɔ lɛ, pɛ ce nmɔ lɛ pɛ.

The snakes that were formerly called “crawlers”. All of them none was having a name.
“Ah.” Sometime they went to our prophet they said, We don't have names. They said,
You will come and get names (you'll get names). These names, they weren't all of them.
The crawlers all of them went. They gave them names. They said, this poison snake, I
don't know its name, was named “ya”. The cobra was also named “bida”. They gave it
the name of cobra. They said, You are called cobra (*bida*) in Mani. They gave names to
all the things. They said, “The python, you are said to be the python (*pɛ ce*) in Mani.

a, ɛrimla ce wɔn ədoe. nɔɔ doe yɔ wɔn p. 117
sɔtɔɛn del. ɛnyalɛ, pɛ yan, yan abiyen ideli. palɛ mɔ sɔtɔ del.
əkɔni, əkɔ we, əkɔ we, əkɔ we, ɛmunɛ pɛ kɔ hun. ɛmunɛ pɛ yi. ɛnyalɛ,
pɛ yan han nuy nan asɔtɔn ideli. a, kena nma gbata koni mɔ hun sɔtɔ del.
nnyɛ. n. ɛnyalɛ, awa, amuniyey. ɛmuni pɛ. əwe, əwe, əwe, əwe, əwe.
lɔɔɔ pum cɛy ɛmunɛ.

Ah, the puff adder remained. The puff adder when it left it doesn't get. This other one left. When it left it doesn't got a name. He said, I, I don't have name? They said, You will get a name. He went and stayed for long, long, long, long. The other time around. He went there again and asked. He said, Okay. Let me return.

He returned again. He went and stayed long and long and long and long. I, up until now, I don't have name. They said, My friend, you will going to get name. He said, Okay. Let me return. He returned again. He went for long and long and long and long.

lɔpɛ kɔ əkɔ yi. ɔnyalɛ, pɛ yan nɔɔa hun doe ka fɔlɔ yɔ anya-konyi bulen
ɲa gbendi sɔtɔ ndel, yan deli bɔniyen cɛ nyene tun nnya bi i.

lɔ nyalɛ, mantoyɔn nyi nyalɛ, awa, nmuni yelen. ɔnyalɛ,

p. 118 a wa mɔ hun sɔtɔ idel. ɔnyalɛ, awa nmuni ba. ɔnyalɛ, lɔ nmuni yey, ɔnyalɛ,
cur pum ɲɔ lɔy ɔnyalɛ, mɔ hun kɔn. mɔ gbo cɛndɔn cur cɛ ɲɔnɔy nkɔn pɔon.

mɔ pɛ kɔ bɔmcur pum. cur pum cɛ ɲɔnɛ mɔ ɲɔ gbo cɛndɔmi. ɛcɛn kɔ ayena diwil.
bɔlɔ n hine. mɔ bɔm nɔlakan nun nɔ pokan nya kɔ hun, nɔ nun la wɔ. ɔnyalɛ,
lanɲa huni haɲ nya mɔ bɔm. lakan cɛ wɔy kɔ bɔl. kene nma pak lakan cɛ ye.

p. 119 ɔnyalɛ, pokan cɛ wɔɔ mɔɛ ki, ɔnyalɛ, nwɔ mɔ pak. nwɔ mɔ gbo ca ɔnyalɛ,
awa hun sɔtɔ idel. ɔnyalɛ, nnyɛ. ɔnyalɛ, n.

The other time he went there again and asked. He said, I since I stayed in this world all my friends have get names, I only this name of crawlers I'm still having. God said, our prophet said, Okay, returned behind. He said, Okay, you'll come and get a name. He said, Okay. return yet. He said, when you return. He said, There is a town. He said, You'll come and go. Just as you pass this town, you go far away. You will go and meet another town. This other town after passing it by, you won't go again as far. And you lie down. You will meet a woman and a man coming. Somebody and his wife. He said, If they come round, they will meet you. The woman is ahead. But don't shake (touch) the woman. He said, The man as soon as he come, is he you are going to touch. He said, He you are going to knock. He said, Okay. You'll come to get a name. He said, Is it so? He said, Yes.

bɔlɔ nya kɔn. nya bɔm cur bul cɛ ɲɔnɔ nya can. ɛcan. əkɔ əkɔ bɔm cur bul cɛ. bɔlɔ
ɛcan. əkɔ gbo fɔ kɔ cur pali. ndɔ lɛ-lɛ, lɔ cɛn diwil katɔy. ken fok kaki ɛmɔɛ kɔ cɛn
cɛ. bɔlɔ hin. ndɔ hine kol. fɔɛ pɛrɛy fɔ kɔn wɔ ɲɔn bɛ nnyam. ndɔ hine kol, ndɔ hine
kol, ndɔ hine kol. han dɔɛ mbul han dɔɛ n cɔɲ ndɔ kɔn hin.

And they went. They met the one town, they passed it along. He passed along. He went, he went and met the other one and passed it again. As soon as he went out of the town where it is not too far long. Just like from here meeting to that hill and lie down. There he lied. God also, God have fed [filled] it up with the poison. There he lied, there he lied, there he lied down. Up to one day two days there he just lied down.

p. 120

lɔxɔ pumi lakan cɛ nun pokan cɛ wɔnɔ, pɔ wɔ nya kɔ hun. kɛrɛ lakan cɛ wɔ kɔ bɔl.
nɲɔ kɔ bɔlɔy pokan cɛ cɛ kɔ welen. nya hun lakan cɛ can.

kene nyan tɔn diwil nin siya. lakan cɛ nɲɔ can yɔy pokan cɛ hun.

wə lə na mə welen ki. bələ bəniyen cə wənəy bələ əkəpa wə.
ndə kəpa wə bo koləy bələ dul. ndə sənko bowə bələ ədul. la wə kə wə,
la wə wən ləfetin. e, watang, ənyale, e, watang. la ɲənən na.

The other day, this woman and the man, her husband came. But is the woman that (who) was ahead. While she was ahead, the man was behind. They came the woman passed. But they were a little bit away from each other. As the woman passed away, the man came. Just as he reached the point, this crawler knocked him. Where he knocked him, there he fell down. His wife went and his wife reversed to where he shouted. What happened.

p. 121

bema nun nyan hun po wə wuy. əle sənko. ənyale, e, ərimla cə, ərimla cə di po mi.
ərimla cə di po mi. na leri pə si wə nun ilel. wə nyale, ərimla cə di po mi.
kərə deli wə nyələ ərimla. pəkan cə deli wə nyələ ərimla.

Before coming, she met her husband is dead. She started shouting. She said, Ah the puff adder, the puff adder killed my husband [Rimla]. The puff adder killed my husband [Rimla]. In that time his name was not known. She is just saying, The puff adder killed my husband? But his name was the puff adder (*ərimla*). The man's name was "*ərimla*", meaning 'puff adder' in English.

bən, ənyale, e, irimla cə nde mi. irimla cə ndoe mi, irimla cə ndoe mi. lakan cə wə
wəɲ pəni yə. wə wən yel wə wən pəni. e - wən pəni. e - wə wən yel po mi doe mi, ə
rimla cə ndoe mi, ndoe mi, ndoe mi, ndoe mi,. wə sənko, **p. 122**
wə rukutan. wə wən dul wə po wə dul wə po.

Bon, borrowed word from French. She said, The puff adder left me. The puff adder left me. The puff adder left me. Is the woman now who was shouting like this. Calling, shouting. Ah – shouting. Ah – calling my husband left me. The puff adder [Rimla], you left me, you left me, you left me. Shouting. Rolling on the ground. She felt [fell?] and got up, felt and got.

sənko cə ɲənə nya ko cur nya kə wən giti. nya kə wən hun tigbəkən.
əhun nya tigbəkən cə nyan a kə kə kə. ali pə hun a pəkan cə la nyanən na.
wə bo nyale, ərimla cə ndoe mi. ərimla cə ndoe mi. yaɲ ɲəa nya lanaa.
wə dul wəm. pə bilbil wə wəm pəɲ pəe wə. pələ, yela.
lay welen net pəkə ke wənə nyin. bəniyen cə wənə kə hin pələ,
yaxa wənə wə pə fəm ərimlay. yaxa go wənə wənə wə pə fəm.

This shouting, those in the nearest town broke in crowd to the place. They came with running. There coming with runs, in that quick, quick, and quick. Just as they- they came, what happened? She was just saying, The puff adder left me, the puff adder left me, I, what (how) am I going to do about this? was falling down and up. They held her as put her up. They asked (said, What is it? It met up just, they found this lied. This crawler lied. This said, So was this the woman called puff adder (*ərimla*) in Mani?

p. 123

awa, lɔxo cɛ ɲɔnɔ ɲɔ sɔto lel ərimla. awa lɔxo cɛ ɲɔnɔ ɲɔ sɔto ilel. wɔn pɛrɛ nlɔ pɛ nyalɛ, irimla. asoso acɛ nyalɛ, tamba-lumbe.

So this was it. Okay. This was the very day that he got the name *ərimla*, “puff adder” in English. Okay. This was the very day that he got the name *ərimla*, “puff adder”. It was not his name. This was the day he got a name *ərimla*. He also was named *ərimla*. The Soso people said, Tambalumbe”.

awa, kɛn potonɔ lakan cɛ wɔnɔ lɔ mi hun yi, ya tɛni ɔtɛn cɛ kɔnɛ fɔ ayoɛn kɔnɛ. nd ɔɛ lɔnta. amɔɛ-kendi kol.

Likely if this white woman asked me for story telling, that till I tell this as goodbye. This is it. Full stop. I ended there.

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n.b. [square brackets from tc]

“Story of the puff adder”

Let me start. I Momoh Bangoura of Palatougou.

Okay. I am coming to tell a story but it is not any other story [but] is the story of the puff adder [a viper]. You see, when God created it. He created all the things in the bush, in the town, he finished everything for them. From the goat, to the sheep go to the monkeys go to everything.

The snakes that were formerly called “crawlers”. All of them none was having a name. “Ah.” Sometime they went to our prophet they said, We don’t have names. They said, You will come and get names (you’ll get names). These names, they weren’t all of them. The crawlers all of them went. They gave them names. They said, this poison snake, I don’t know its name, was named “*ya*”. The cobra was also named “*bida*”. They gave it the name of cobra. They said, You are called cobra (*bida*) in Mani. They gave names to all the things. They said, “The python, you are said to be the python (*pe ce*) in Mani.

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