

Interview date: 08 05 08–11

Audio file name: 11 F drum beating

Recorder: AT

Transcriber: HS

Transcription consultant: TB

HS notes on transcription: Bassei was grumpy and drunk and didn't feel like elaborating much on these texts.

Basic idea: Fandewo is describing how he and others would go around throwing “komiye” events—playing the music for all-night dances after someone died. He uses the word “bisiye,” ‘ambitious/eager/hard-working,’ a fair amount to describe both his group’s attitude and their clients’ attitudes. When the clients were “ambitious” about their komiye, they paid well, he seems to say, and if not, they didn’t. He and his group were “ambitious,” so whenever they heard that there had been a death somewhere, they went there. It seems that they would stay playing for about three or four nights in one place before finishing the gig.

F: Si ɔ nuuwe ɔnɔɛ hun yan,

si ɔ hu yi ween.

Si ɔ kɔn,

kɛnga la luema li hiyɔn. Si ɔ.

Ha yi kɛ sɔmma, si yi sɔm, ɛ,

yi binbin wogwɛ.

Yi binbin wogwɛ, yi binbin wogwɛ wɛ, kɛnga–

ha yinɔ toon.



Hanbe ha le, ε– ke pein!

Le ha yi weeni we.

Hanbe ko, si yinbe duge komiye Bengahun yon.

Bengahun is near Maama Khain's house on the way out of Tamuke.

Hu mui gbahun li wule.

It arrived at the home of the dead person.

wule = death/person who recently died

Yi mui na go gbahun divule, yinbe toon.

Le yi toon komiye we,

yinbe dinti, kaye.

ε– le ha weeni yinye, yin kɛnɛ,

koowe yin kɛnɛ hu ha yin keye.

Anina weeni la wuleywe.

wuleywe = heina va (Mende).

Hanbe yumun.

Ke ha bisiye na go la komiye,

yi nuu ke koowe yin kɛnɛ,

ke ha ma bisiye na go la komiye,

ha cen ke koowe we.



Yinbe yi la bisiya háá si hɔye ken,

ha há tenjamaa, tenjamaa hu na ge ceye,

ha sem jogwe wogwe likwɔ.

Si ha téí jaleyɛ.

Le ha tei jaleyɛ we, hanbe kɔn.

Hanbe kɔnyɛ.

Kɔpwe hun yi na gbonge, komiyɛ we.

Hun lɔ ha yi ke, yin ge yi bisiye la, ɛ–

yi bisiye la komiyɛ we.

Hun hu ha yi keyɛ.

Ha ke na yi go,

yinbe huni.

La pɛi ce hááni, kɛnga yinbe te,

kenmale, yi Sembɛhun, ya go tɔto Sembɛhun yɔn.

Sembɛhun, wɔ le, nuuwe wɔ lɔ.

Ha le, ha go ween anyande hwin.

Ha na hu(n?) sɛɛn komiyɛ yeni.

Le ha hu(n?) sɛɛn komiyɛ yeni,



le kɔn na go,

si wɔ dugɛyɛ komiyɛ, Bɛngahun yɔni.

Yinbɛ kɔn. Gbahun li wulɛ,

ɛ, yinbɛ toon.

Ha na weeni, hiyɛ?

Ha le, ɛɛ.

Ha weeni yi, ha le, la yɛɲ.

Ha le, nuu há yɛn, wɔ wulɛ.

Kɛ, yi le, yi sɛɛn komo lani.

Hiyɛ-i? [Other man: M-hm]

Kɛ- sɔngɔma wɔ hu ha yi kɛyɛ.

sɔngɔma (from Mende) = how much/what price

Yi saage le wɔ?

Ha le, yi saage li γaa ɔ li hiyɔn.

Kɛ ha yi kɛ kɔpwɛ saanti.

Watiyɛ wɛ. ɛ- kɔpwɛ,

ha yi kɛ pɔɲ yɛɛn ɔ pɔɲ γaa.

Watiyɛ hun na geyɛ.



Ha yipe na go há tenjamaa wε, si ha kisiyε.

Yinbε kɔn gbahun yɔn.

Hanbε wɔŋ feeyε. Yinbε kɔn.

Yi kɔn nan go pɛi si yi can hááni,

ha na ceenge yin la komiyε apɔ yan.

they hated us for the celebration in this town.

Gloss from TB

Yin ge yi bisiyε la komiyε,

yinbε pɛ te wulε a yɛŋ.

we just heard of a death somewhere,

yinbε kɔn.

we went.

Ya cen migɛn.

I'm not done yet.

Ya la ca gbɛnti vui.

Komiyε wε yi yɛi na go,

hanbε tóón yin. Ha toonyε na yin na go,

ha yinbε kɛ kɔpwε siŋ ta yeen.

Ha le hutuhin hu ha yi gbongε.

They said that it was a big place that they would show us.

hutuhin = big place = open area for holding the dance.



Yi yei komiyε wε, hɔyε hun ken,

ha kɔ há tenjamaa wε, si ha kisiyε,

le han kisi wε,

si yinbε mui gbahun li wulε.

Hanbε wɔŋ feeyε.

Yi lɔnbε hu(gi), yinbε huni.

Ya migɛngum kíńíŋ yɔɔn.

Song: Ya kɔn ma duman, ya ma lɔni.

END SEGMENT