

7 Dec 08, TC: pasted document “KJ, FK Friday ghosts” (original now in Archive directory)

Interview date: 2008-11-06

File name (both audio and transcription): KJ, FK ghosts on Friday

Prompt: What do some people believe will happen if you go to the farm on Friday?

Recorded by: HS

Transcribed by: HS

Transcribing consultants: FK, MK (21 Nov); JP (5 Dec)

KJ: εε. Jɛnda lani, la go hán, anina.

Yes. That thing, they do it, people.

go sounds like wɔ...

Le ha hán juma a le.

When they do it on Friday.

Si ha ke anina.

Then they see people.

JP translated this in the simple past: “they saw.”

Ni ha, ni ha ke, si hanbɛ cɛngi tacimun.

Then they, when they see, then they run away.

c in cɛngi sounds like s.

Le ha cɛngi tacimun tá, si ha huni apɔ wan.

They run away there, then they come to town.

Si ha, ha- ha- ha- ha hɔwɛ la, ha le anina hi gbomi ha piahun yɔn oo.

Then they say it, they say: “We met ‘people’ in the farm, o.”

‘People’ here seems to stand for ‘ghosts.’

Transcribers wanted ...hi ha gbomi piahun...

Ha le, ma sɔmma ma ha tuna.
They say, it is food that they are seeking.

Ha tuna sɔmma. Yɛɛ.
They seek food. Cassava.

Yɛni hun hi cen kɔ piahun yɔn (a) juma a le.
That's why we don't go to the farm on Friday.

FK: Cɔ Kuba, kapihai wɔ Sɔɔ,
Joe Kuba (Joe Braima), his brother Soh,

KJ: ɛɛ.
Yes.

FK: Wɔ na wuɛ.
He had died.

Yi na- kenma yi na ge kwiye sáágàà gu jogwɛ wɛ.
We were- we were putting on the ceremony with rice.
saagaa = Mende saa. Ceremony after person's death. Word may refer to
3-day ceremony, 7-day ceremony, or 40-day ceremony.
JP wanted something very different here: kenma yi na ge kwiye saagaa
Abdu wɛ wɛ: "An example is when we put on the ceremony for that Abdu."

ɛ, anina, han- han gbí, hanbɛ kɔn.
People, they- they all went.

Janatu- Janatu, Kwago yɔn, (KJ: ɛɛ) ha kɔn piahun yɔn, ha kwaa yɛɛ.
Janatu- Janatu in Kwako, (KJ: Yes) they went to the farm to collect cassava.
kwaa = dig up cassava and bring home from farm. Seems different from
just 'root cassava' or 'dig up.' JP confirms "collect."

Ha na gbom wɔ, yema wɛ can, wɔ ce cɔŋ jogwɛ.

They met him, that boy sitting, dishing up rice.

Note ce, ‘stay’, used here to show that they saw him *while* dishing up rice.
cɔŋ = place (in dishes).

(Amazed murmurs from others.)

Wɔn ɔ na go kwi saaga wɛ Kwago ɔni,
He was going to his (own) ceremony in Kwako,

ɔ ce cɔŋ jogwɛ piahun ɔn.
he was dishing up rice in the farm.

KJ: Piahun ɔn.

KJ: In the farm.

FK: Mm! Janatu wa cimuta,

FK: Yes! Janatu (and the others) ran,

Note “entourage morpheme” wa.

e– gidi gidi gidi gidi

[when FK really seems to get into the narrative, she slips into Mende. She translated the Mende into K. as: Wɔ ha le, Sɔɔ, ha go kwi saaga wɛ, wɔ cani piahun ɔn, wɔnbɛ ɔ cɔŋ jogwɛ. She told them, “Soh, they’re doing his ceremony, he’s sitting in the farm and dishing up rice.”]

Kɛ ti ya!

(Mende): So they left!

[Goes back into Kim:] Hanbɛ kɔn! Tacimun, apɔn, ha kɔ la hɔ, anina ha hun dɔ.

They went! Running, to town, they went and said it, the people came there.

Ha na gbɔmi jogwɛ go ce go sɛɛnyan,

They encountered the (cooked) rice all scattered,
sɛɛnyan = sɛɛn, 'scatter' in stative form plus nasal?

wɔnbɛ matin!
he hid!

Yema wɛ wɔ na matin go, ha ma na ke wɔn gbí,
The boy hid, they did not see him at all,

MK: ɛ, wɔ na matin go.
He hid.

FK: ɛɛ,
Yes,

KJ (speaking over FK): ɛɛ, ha ce wɔn ke, ha ce wɔn ke.
Yes, they didn't see him, they didn't see him.

Ha ce wɔn ke. Wɔ go matin.
They didn't see him. He hid.

FK: Ha ma na ke wɔn gbí, bɛ paa jogwɛ kwɔ ha na gbɔmi koswɛ koogi,
They didn't see him at all, just the rice that they encountered on the
hearthstones,
koswɛ = firestone. Mende = wundei.

gwɔ ce ɔ go sɛɛnyan gbí,
NCM stay there go scatter all
all scattered there,

jogwɛ wɔ na gun jowɛ, wɔnbɛ kɔn saaga wɔ kwiye anɔn.
once he had eaten the rice, he went to his own ceremony.

Yema wɔ bɛ, wɔ na wu paa sáá, ha na wɔŋ wɔ go, (MK: ɛɛ!) wɔ paa paa wu
sáá.

That boy, he died suddenly, they had selected him, he just died suddenly.
wכך = to select. (?) JP says "appoint." JP says this means that witches
selected him to be killed.

END