

17 Mar 09, tc:

Interview date: 28 Nov 2008

File name: Hawa and Yema 3

Transcriber: HS with consultant Tɔmi Gbondu.

Present: Hawa Lapiya, Yema Gbanyande, Yema Kakai, Yasi ____, Tɔmi Gbondu, HS, and many onlookers.

YG: Yiyɛm gun.

Ask me now.

HL: Hu mum yiyɛ.

It is you who should ask me.

TG: Hu mu gun yiyɛ.

It is you (HL) who should ask.

HL: ɔɔ, ya nga wɔ gun pɛi yiyɛ.

?? transl.

YG: ɛɛ!

Yes!

HL: Humbɛ yɛ ka ce há?

Yourself, what were (you) doing?

I.e., when you were small.

Yɛn ka ce há jali wèilɛ́, yɛ yaamu ka ce há?

When you did bad stuff, what would your mother do?

YG: Yɛ yim ka cem yɛti ha gbonɔɔ,

When my mother caught me for beating,

ha = 'to/for,' apparently.

le kɛgɛ ce lɔn go, wɔm juwin cen.

if my father was not there, she beat me until I shat.

juwin cen = unclear whether really explained as “until I shat.” Didn’t press the issue because of possibility of embarrassing consultant.

HL: Ha, agbɛna hile ha ga ce gbɔn tugun!

Ha! Our parents were hot-hearted!

YG: Hulengɔ wɛ!

Mende = ‘too much.’

HL: Bɔwɛi Dane ka cen kwi sai.

Bowei and Dane didn’t talk nonsense.

Transl. courtesy of TG. TG said that these are the names of Hawa and Yema’s mothers. But I wonder if it’s just ‘First-Born Dane.’

Bɛɛ baaha hile ha hɔ hin.

Except if our fathers spoke for us.

END SEGMENT