

Interview date: 23 Mar 2009

File name: HS asks BT about lovers

Transcriber: HS

Transcription consultants: Tōmi Ngombu.

Present: Hawa Sanja = Hawa Ngaju, Manu Joni, Boi Tua, Jilo Sigbi, Hawa Idrisa, Tōmi Ngombu, and Hannah.

HS: Bwei? (Mm)

Ye ha ga polɛ, hu ha ga há vuí jali mpola? 4

When you were growing up, what were you doing for all loving business?

BT: ɛɛ-ɛ. Yɛŋ, ká ce min ke go, ye a cɔŋ jali Alfa lɛ leni? 8.0

Ehh-h. What, you didn't see me, when I was in love with Alfa?

HS: ɛɛ!

Eh!

BT: ɛɛ, ye wɔm ka, bɛmdɛ kɔ negi. 12

Yes, it was he who gave me, when my leg was hurt.

Wɔ piŋ pɔmdɛ, si ceyɛm ma.

He bought medicine, and brought it to me.

Le mui gun, si hi cala. 16

When he arrived again, then we married.

Hi go ye cala, 18

We were married/sitting (together),

ka ce wɔ ye hun. Wei? (Mm)

and he came. Hear?

ε-ήέ! Άά, a ga cɔŋ jali pɛntimɔɛ wɛ lɛn.  
Eh -heh! Ah, I loved that work.

HS (hard to make out): Mm, mm, mm. Yaŋ vuí, ya ce go ká cɔŋ mɔ lɛn!  
I myself, I loved that work!

Κε nuu cen pɛi-  
But no one else-

BT: Ye, ye, ye [repeated for emphasis and to make herself heard over HS]  
ya ʃɔŋgi guni, 28  
When, when, when I healed,

apuma lɔgi gbí tii ga, pààŋi. 33  
all these boys here in town, at night.

“ε, ya, nya lɔɔŋgɔ a bie,”  
(IN Mende) “Oh, I want you,”

γε, yaŋ, ya cen yum! A cen yum! A cen yum! 38  
but, I, I don’t agree! I don’t agree! I don’t agree!

Aifa wɔ ya cɔŋ lɛni.  
It was Alfa who loved me.

Wɔn wɔ, a le bɛn negeye,  
It was he who, when my leg hurt,

ni cɔm lɛn. 43  
loved me.

Landa ye, ya ma gun ʃɔŋgi, nuu ma ce jali mu lɛi ga. 47  
That’s why, once I’ve just healed, let a person not start in my business.

A ga yumuni, wei?

I didn't agree, hear?

A cen yum bakabakaye we. 51  
I don't agree to that business.  
Mende for foolishness. bakabaka

Nuule wɔ, wɔ ya ee- len lam! 57  
A person who, he didn't- something to me!

HS: Hɔgimun welen.  
Came out behind you (or, not).  
I.e., supported you.

BT: Si kweye mu le bon.  
taking from your head (the weight).

HS: Hɔgi min welen.  
Coming out behind you.

JS?: Mu gun bon ɔngi kíní, mu ye kɔn kòò, lepilepile hu hwin.  
If you just heal completely, then you go yonder, going around and around  
to others.  
lepile = Mende. 'going around to many diff. people.' TG

[Women all laugh together]

All: Ei, a po wei, ee, ai, jɔwei. 1:09  
Let's get up, eh, ai, jwei.  
According to TG, this comes from Bundo times. When a man hears this,  
he knows it's women gathered, and he leaves. They do it when they laugh  
together about something, TG says.

BT: Ye a be geye, vuí a mui temi lɔgi kíní,  
Even now...

[all talking at once until 1:14]

BT: La mui ma tɛmi lɔgi kíníŋ, tɛmbam kɛ ce lɔ,  
Even arriving at this time, there's no lover,

Ṣṓṓ ɛndi wɔ ga hɔm pɛi, hu há ndɔmai. 1:21  
Soh Endu it was who spoke to me again, to become lovers.

Kɛ cen ka nuu fee! 1:22  
But doesn't give a person money!

Hɔ ye hum, ce wɔ cɛti yɛgile,  
Says, you should stay cooking cassava for him,

a gá putɔ lɔn sum. 1:25  
I don't have any interest in that.

ɛɛ, wei? A ce lɔn puti sum.  
Yes, hear? I don't have any interest in that.

Cen piŋ gbaama, cen piŋ gbɔɔgbɛ. 1:33  
Doesn't buy small fish, doesn't buy anything!  
gbaama = small-small fish women fish for in nets (Mende gendei).

HS: Cen piŋ kwaa?  
Doesn't buy fish?

BT: ɛɛ. Ey ye, mu ndɔmaiwei hun, mu ndɔmaiwei. 1:37  
Yes. Ey ye, "Let's be lovers, let's be lovers (Mende)."

HS: Hi ham mpo.  
Let's do loving.  
(Supplying the Bom)

BT: A yumun!

I don't agree!

A cen yum! 1:39

I don't' answer!

Ye la mui ma tɛmi ɭɔgi kíńíŋ, wei?

All up until this time, hear?

A ga hogi ɔŋ, ye bakabakaile hun. 1:45

I came out of loving, because it's foolishness.

HS: ɔɔ-ɔ, a ga hogi bàbàle wɛ li bɛn bɛn bɛn bɛn bɛn bɛn,

Oh, I had come out of that foolishness long long long long ago,

mu ce min hɔ ampom.

you don't talk to me about loving.

TG: Hiye, bæ? Ha hugɔ ɭɔ? 1:50

Is that so, man? You all came out of it?

HS: ɛɛ?

What?

MJ: Ha hogɔ ɭɔ?

Did you come out of it?

HS: Ai, li bɛn bɛn bɛn bɛn bɛn!

MJ: Humbɛ vuí ye hi mui geyɛ,

You yourself have arrived at that,

Speaking to TG?

HS: ɛɛ, nuu(m) cen pɛi há!

Yes, a person no longer does it!

ε– kɔŋga lukpe, kɔŋga lukpe (Mende). 2:00

“Being friends, being friends.”

Yi cén lani ya pɛi!

We don’t do that anymore!

[All laugh]

END SEGMENT