

3 May 09, tc: began reviewing, up to xxx

Video title: LR 1 JJ Kongaima

Transcribed 29 Apr 2009 by Hannah Sarvasy w/ Tommy Ngombu

Transcription location: Tei

Videotaped by Bart Childs.

Present in video: Tommy Ngombu (TNg), JJ Kongaima (JJK), Alfa Dewah (AD). Seven women Bom speakers also present (seated off-camera).

Assembled onlookers include Alie Toure, HS, et al.

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Cut-off intro by Alie Touray: says: Kimi all the way now!

TNg to JJK: Bɔmmuyehun mi ana?

Isn’t it Bom? (in Mende)

Introduction

JK: Ilenmile hi le JJ Kongaima.

My name is JJ Kongaima. 0:07

Bengisana go lo pe gbemmi.

It was in Bengisana where they gave birth to me. 0:09

1910. Hu pe gbemmi.

1910. When they gave birth to me. 0:14

TNg says ga should be there for past marker.

Baam, baamde wo gbemmile, ilenwole hi le Kongaima.

My father, my father who gave birth to me, 0:16 his name was Kongaima.
0:20

Wɔn pɛ gbem wɔ go Bunpiɛ go.
Him, they gave birth to him in Buipieh. 0:22

Yaŋ, pɛ gbemmi go Bengisana go, kɔ gi mbagɔmmilɛ.
Me, they gave birth to me in Bengisana, 0:26 by my grandfather. 0:27

Why he left (refused to pay “tax”)

Si ye la bɛ geyɛ, ɛ, yendɛ hu ceyɛ, hu ya ga hogi,
Even now, 0:28 the thing that happened, 0:31 the reason I left, 0:32

lendɛ gagi a kɔn len Sinjɔlɛ, a kɔn Pujehun.
(from) this area, I went to the area of Sinjo, 0:35 I went to Pujehun. 0:36
Sinjo is town in Pujehun District.

ɛ, kakpamalɛ hu ga ci laneyɛ,
Eh, the conspiracy that was there, 0:38
kakpama = Mende. “When they ‘boat’ on you.” “People gather and
arrange something bad for you.” TNg
[vote??]

ye pɛ ga bentimamindɛ pɛhin, a cen há mpanti mapɔɔg.
when they conspired against me they said, 0:42 I didn’t do chieftom
work. 0:43
pɛhin = ‘they said.’ TNg says that JK was in fact a “coward man.” It was JK
and others who conspired to remove the chief from the chieftom.

Wɔ hu la ga ceyɛ.
That was what happened. 0:45

Kɛ ye la bɛ gi, ɛ, ha ga, ɛ, ha ga tentim pɛi,
But now, 0:46 eh, they were humbugging me again, 0:50
tenti = to “try” someone, go at, “humbug,” bother. TNg

pəhin, ya lɛ, nu, a cen yum ha wɔŋ fee,
they said, I was someone, 0:52 (who) I didn't agree to pay money to them,
0:54

TNg: i.e., contribution for the chiefdom

ye apotalɛ ha hundɛ, didilɛ wɔ hundɛ,
when the government officials came, the district officer came, 0:57
Note (see Mbimba Tua note): apotalɛ referred to gov't officials even after
whites left. When they came, people were supposed to gather eggs,
chickens, money, etc., but JK did not contribute so. So the chief became
annoyed at him. TNg

a cen wɔŋ fee.
I didn't pay money. 0:59

ɛ- a cen wɔŋ fee. Kɛ-
Eh- I didn't pay money. But- 1:03

TNg: Há pɔɔgile oo.
For the chiefdom-o. 1:04

JK: Há pɔɔgile oo.
For the chiefdom-o. 1:05

A cen wɔŋ hu!
I didn't pay it! 1:06

Ya ye, lɛ a wɔŋ hu go, kɛsi eibisilɛ vuí a sǐ hu.
I was, 1:07 if I paid it, it would be as if I didn't even know the ABCs. 1:10
TNG says that as an educated man, JK was trying to instigate the other
people against the paramount chief.

**Note: here's the negative in tone without -n.

Kɛ, la ga ce gondɛ, hu pɛ ga hum kɔnti Bɛngisana golɛ.

But, what happened now, 1:13 they had arrested me in Bengisana. 1:16

Pwe– pɛm go ɲɔŋ jel.

They– they threw me in jail. 1:19

Yanbɛ, ya ye, hwe, pagalɛ,

I myself, I said, the pay, 1:21

fee pagalɛ, yi hu dugi, hun hu pɛ paga, bɛɛ ɲɔŋgilɛ.

the money for pay, that is what they pay, 1:24 the paramount chief. 1:26

Yɛŋ. Hu disilɛ wɔ pɛi hunu, si a hun wɔŋ feeya?

Why? That the district officer comes again, 1:29 then I come and pay money? 1:28

Ya ye, “A cen wɔŋ yen!”

I said, “I won’t pay anything!” 1:30

TNg: I.e., they have already paid the paramount chief, and then the district officer comes again and they have to pay him, too. JK said he wouldn’t pay.

Wɔ hu ya ga hɔlai.

That is what I said. 1:32

AD: m̀m̀, wɔ hu la ga ceyɛ.

Yes. That’s what happened. 1:33

JK: Haalemɔ la koŋ gi.

My own (portion) is finished here. 1:34

The war, continuing with refusal to pay

TNg: Pɛmɔ hu ga ceyɛ, pɛmɔ, lɛ kɔ ga hun nogi, n ká ke lɔ?

When the war was, 1:36 when the war came, 1:37 did you see it? 1:38

JK: Pɛm hi logi, kɔ hun dogi, kɔ ga ce gwɛ, kɛ anya wasulɛ,

Our war, when it came here, 1:42 it was there, but the arrogant people,
1:44

wasu – Mende. “A person who doesn’t agree to do anything.” TNg [hard-headed, stubborn]

ya lɛ, e pɛmdɛ kɔ muilɛ, pɛ ga ce go tunu anyalɛ.

I said, when the war arrived, 1:48 they were finding the people. 1:50

Pwe, ha ha kɔnti, nulɛ mu lɛ nuwasulɛ, si pɛ bɛti mu gbɔɔhɔhɔ.

They said, they would arrest them, 1:52 a person, if you’re called
(considered) an arrogant person, 1:53 then they cut your throat. 1:55

Háá, anyalɛ, ha pɛ ji pɔɔgi logeyɛ.

All the time, the people, they killed them in this chiefdom. 1:58

La hoga go kɔgi, wasulɛ, pɛhin, hi cen wɔŋ fee pɔɔgi, ha– ha bɛɛɛ.

It was from, 1:59 arrogance, they said, we didn’t pay the chiefdom money.
2:03 For– for the chief. 2:04

Bɛɛɛ wɔɔ, hi dugi feelɛ pagalɛ, hun hu pɛ wɔ kai.

The chief now, we dropped the pay (tax) money, 2:07 that is what they
gave him. 2:10

Hu pɛ– pɛ wɔ paga, ni pɔlisi ha lɛ, ɛ, ha eneilaile,

They– they pay him, 2:12 and the police they, for the NA, 2:17
Native Administration = NA.

han há pɛ ga ce wɔŋ feelɛ, landa a ga kangai, hu pɛi gá kɔntimi.

it was they whom they paid the money, 2:19 that’s what I refused, 2:21
that’s why they arrested me. 2:22

kanga = to refuse.

Ye pɛ kɔntimdɛ, landa, ye pɛmdɛ dugɔlɛ,

When they arrested me, 2:24 for that, when the war started, 2:26

ya ga ce go– ya ga ce go, tolai (tolai).

I was in the bush. 2:32 (AD: In the bush. 2:33)

A ga ce lo háá, nenti menhion.

I was there for a while, 2:34 nine years. 2:35

A cen ho tii.

I didn't go to town. 2:36

Pɛ ga ce go tunu anyalɛ, pɛhin ha wasu,

They were searching for the people, they said they were arrogant, 2:45

putunulɛ hu mui go, ha hun degen fee pagalɛ.

when the white man came, 2:46 they gathered the tax money. 2:47

Lɛ n, pɛ kɔnti mu, mu pɛŋ wɔŋ yen, si pɛi kɔ wɔ kunan.

When you, they arrest you, 2:51 you first pay something, 2:54 then they report back to him. 2:56

kunan = to report back. TN

pɛ hwe lɛ hun go, ndegilɛ,

they say, when he comes now, hunger, 2:57

ɛ, ma ce nupugandɛ, hi ka wɔa fee logi.

is before this man, 3:00 let us give him this money. 3:02

Unclear what –a is with wɔ.

Yanɓɛ, ya ye, putunulɛ, han ha bɛmpa, jalifɛe logi yɛ.

I said, it is the white man, they have fashioned, 3:01 this money business.
3:04

A ce wɔn go– a cen go kwe iwɔ, a cen ha lani wɛ.

I won't take a debt. 3:06 I won't do that. 3:08

I.e., I won't undertake a debt for them.

Landa पे ga hum कन्त पञ्चgi logi ये.
That's why they arrested me in this chiefdom. 3:09

TNg: Ha mu ye यञgi?
Did they carry you (away)? 3:11

Incarceration, insurrection against the chief

JK: पे यञgim! पे बेम- पे बेम- पे कम् बे सलilai.
They carried me! They put me- 3:13 they put me in a cell. 3:15

TNg: Hiyे?
Is that so? 3:16

JK: कञ्ज, पे ga बेम द, anya konuu,
Ohh, they put me there. 3:18 Twenty people, 3:20

ε, Gbengen, ha ga कम् kwe lɔni.
eh, in Gbengen section, they went to take me out there (to free him from the cell). 3:22
Twenty people from Gbengen section (headquartered at Kale) came to free him to go carry out a coup against the chief.

Anya konuu ni waan ni a hɔn
Thirty-four people 3:24

ha ga कम् lɔ kweye.
they took me out there. 3:25

Yan be, ye ha kweye min lɔni,
I myself, when they took me from there, 3:28

ha ye, "Hi kwɔ, konti beɛɛ."
they said, "Let's go, arrest the chief." 3:29

Ya ye, "N-n!"

I said, “No!” 3:31

“Lε hi kɔnti go bεεlε, hi kwe wɔ go gagi hi,
“If we arrest the chief, 3:31 and we take him out of here, 3:32

gɔvaminɪlε wɔ hi h́a jali wεi wεi.
the government will do bad, bad things to us. 3:35

Landa lε hi tɔngi jali wɔ.
That’s why we should summon him.
tɔngi jali mu = ‘show your thing’ = summon to court. Cf. Kim gbɔngi
jɛnda mui.

Hu ya ga tɔngi jali wε.
That’s why I summoned him. 3:38

Hi ga hɔ, hi ga hɔ, kɔtilε wε.
We spoke, we spoke, at that court. 3:42

Paan̄– ε, nenti men hiyɔn (mm).
Months– eh, nine years. 3:46 (AD: yes)

JK: Nenti menhiɔn, ε, paan̄ men bun.
Nine years, eh, 3:49 six months. 3:50

Hińa wɔ ga gben̄ bε gon kɔtilε wε, wɔ ga ce ciyalai yε.
Whoever it was who finished that court case now, 3:52 he was in the chair.
3:53

Saka Stivens wɔ ga gben̄ kɔtilε wε.
Siaka Stevens it was who finished that court case. 3:57

Kɔtilε, ye hi ga kɔ hɔ goni,
The court case, when we now spoke, 4:01

abεεε kíníŋ, abεya pati logi, ha ga cɔm min len.
all the chiefs, these section chiefs, they didn't like me. 4:03

Ye a caŋδε, pε go sεmi anyale,
When I passed, they would set people, 4:09

ayen, pεhin pε kɔntim.
somewhere, they said they should arrest me. 4:11

Pε βεtim gbɔɔhɔn.
They would cut my throat. 4:12

Yaŋβε, a ga ce gon matin,
I myself, I went to hide, 4:14

TNg: Ha mu mi.
They watch you. 4:17

JK: Mm, ni pε kɔntim.
Yes, then they arrest me. 4:17

TNg: Tolai? (mm) A, βεε, pεm kɔ ga ceyε oo.
In the bush? (JK: Yes. 4:18) Oh, man, it was a war oh! 4:20

JK: A ga ce tolai paan men hiyɔn.
I stayed in the bush for nine months. 4:23

TNg: Ma ŋ ga fon go ta gba (all laugh).
You would have shat! 4:25

Alfa Dewah's war story

AD: Pε, pεmδε wε kɔ ga ce, pεmδε wε,
When the war happened, that war, 4:27
Chieftom dispute then was just like a war. TNg

Yan vuí, bela, ha kontim.

Myself truly, the populace, they arrested me. 4:29

bela = people , if many. TNg.

Tolai, ko gi waanda bun, waan gi Biahai le we.

In the bush, by one woman. 4:32 The daughter of that Biahai. 4:36

e, awaande wu.

Eh, her daughter died. 4:39

Waandale won ce wuwe oo,

As soon as the daughter died, 4:41

oo from go? I think so.

Yanbe, a cala go gi.

I myself, I was sitting so. 4:43

Watile we pen ni ha kontim.

At that time first they arrested me. 4:44

Ha yogim Pantin go.

They brought me to Panti. 4:46

e- ke ye cwamde wo ga ceye, Musa Wai.

Eh- but my son was (called), Musa Wai. 4:50

Hwe, "Kenya," hwe, "kenya, wo ha ciye geyei?"

He said, "My uncle," he said, "is it my uncle that they have brought here?"

4:53

Ha ye, "oh-h," ha kweyem bogale fi.

They said, "Ohh-h," they took the cutlass from my hand. 4:59

Ye yan ti munin dogi, hi ye pei bon, hin ahani.

When I returned here, 5:00 hi ye pei bon, hin ahani.

we again met up, we and they. 5:01

Ye ha ga kɔntim goni, boŋ kɔ ha ga boŋmi.

When they had arrested me now, 5:02 it was beating that they did to me.

5:04

Verb focus!

Ham baŋ pengalɛ, yaŋ ti pɛpɛ gi.

They hit me with a gun, 5:06 on my shoulders. 5:08

Ha go baŋ gi.

They hit (me) so. 5:09

(shows where on shoulders.)

ɛ- a lee yɛnali landɛ wɛ,

eh- I remained in that place, 5:12

ngama, waandalɛ laa gi cwamdɛ, ɛ- Kadiatu (Kadiatu)

quickly, my son's wife, 5:17 eh- Kadiatu 5:19 (TNg: Kadiatu)

[ngama Mende 'quick']

Mm, cwale vuí wɔ ga gbemi.

Yes, the true child that she gave birth to. 5:22

Ni ha wɔnbɛ ji!

And they killed him! 5:24

Hab for narrative past

Anya atin, ngama, ngama, ha ji ha tolɛ wɛ ai.

Two people. Quick, quick, they killed them in the bush. 5:28

TNg: Ha ji ha?

They killed them? 5:29

AD: ɛɛ. Cwamulɛ, wɔn ha ga paa bɛti komwɔ logi.

Yes. That son, they cut the penis. 5:33

ε, ni ha lee wɔ ɔ.

Eh, then they left him there. 5:35

JK: Aa, Santɛmpɛ go ɔ ga ceyɛ.

Yes, it was there at Santempe. 5:37

AD: Ee, kɔ Pɔtɛ go.

Yes, yonder at Poteh. 5:38

Yanbɛ, ye a pon dɔ geyɛ, ya ye, a pɛ mu kɔn,

Myself, when I get up now, 5:41 I said, let you go, 5:43

gebeti, tamulɛ wɔ ɔ go hwe, hɔ ye, ha jim.

(to) catch him, the man was there, saying, 5:46 said, let them kill me,
5:48

wɔni wɔ ɔ, hwe, “Bɛɛ,” hwe, “ye nuupugan bɛn dogi ha,”

the other one was there, he said, “Man,” 5:50 said, “what has this old man
done?” 5:52

hu hwe, hi ye ji wɔa.

that they said, we should kill him. 5:54

TNg: Hi ye ji wɔa.

That we kill him. 5:54

AD: ɛɛ, wɔ ye, “e-e, oo!”

Yes. He said, “No, oh!” 5:56

TNg says these men are police sent by paramount chief.

Hwe, “Yan, a cen yum lani.”

He said, “Myself, I don’t agree to that.” 5:58

Ha ga hogi go Matewu go.

They had come from Matru. 6:00

Matru Jon. Big town in Bonthe District, police post there. TNg

Wɔ ye hwe, “A cen yum lani,” hwe, “Ha ma wɔ ji.”

I said, “I don’t agree to that,” he said, “Don’t you kill him.” 6:04

Hwe, “Hi men wɔ.”

He said, “Let’s leave him.” 6:05

Ha kwe, ham bon ga pingale we,

They took, they beat me with that gun, 6:10

háá-á, yanbe, ya ye po.

for a while, and I myself, I got up. 6:12

waanda logi, cwawole hini gi,

the woman, her child was lying here, 6:15

abenahawole gbí, ha kon cɔgin tolai.

all her parents, they had gone into the bush. 6:18

Hu yan há, si wɔ- wɔni wɔ wu li lai logeyɛ.

What should I do, that one he is dead there now. 6:23

Hun ha, si a cɛngin tɛmi si a lee wɔ lɛ.

What if I ran away and I left her there. 6:27

Yanbe, ya ye-

Myself, I- 6:28

TNg: Wɔni wɔ hini. Wɔ gon wu.

This one is lying there. He’s now dead. 6:29

(gesturing with hands to two sides.)

Wɔni ɔ hɔn, ɔ wun mu.

That one is alive. She's not yet dead. 6:31

AD: Mm, hana teŋ gbí ha koŋ wu!

No, (actually) the two of them are now dead! 6:34

Yaŋbe, a cala háá, ya ye lani gbí,

I myself, I sat for a while, I said that all, 6:38

ya ye, a la go leyε, ɔbatugε,

I said, I will leave it to God, 6:40

ε, beε, ha ha ga wu.

eh, man, they have died. 6:43

Ha koŋ kɔn tolε wε ai,

They had gone into the bush, 6:44

há ɔ lɛli lɛli há nyegin teenteende gbí

they were look-looking for the small-small things 6:47

(to take away)

a ga lee ɔ go hu ha ha,

I left them doing what they were doing,

yaŋbe, a ye gbε gbɔɔɔm gbɔɔɔm gbɔɔɔmdε.

I myself, I walked staggering. 6:52

gbɔɔɔm gbɔɔɔm = to stagger. TNg

Bonɔε kɔ ha bonɔmi.

The beating that they beat me. 6:53

Mpagamam dogi gbí ma kɔ negi.

My whole body was hurting. 6:55

JK: Ma kɔ negi.

It hurt. 6:56

AD: εε. Wɔ hu kɪnɪŋ hu la ga ceyε.

Yes. That's all that happened. 6:59

Wε hu kɪnɪŋ hu ha ga hami.

That's everything that they did to me. 7:01

TNg says this is all about the old war/chiefdom dispute. But I'm not sure it's not about the recent war, bec. AD is referred to as old.

Alfa Dewah concludes xxx

JK: Ye pε ga kweyεn bεεε isɔn,

When they took the right from the chief, 7:04

Sa Lɔn go.

in Freetown. 7:05

Lɔ kɔtilε hu ga kɔŋ goni.

There the court case was finished. 7:07

Lɔ kɔtilε hu ga gbeŋ goni.

There the court case was completed. 7:08

Ye pε kweyε wɔn isɔnde,

When they took the right from him, 7:09

ya ye, hwe, ya ye, bεε logi,

I said, this chief, 7:13

hi dugi fee pagalε, hun hu pε wɔ paga gai.

we dropped (gave) the tax money, that it what they paid him. 7:16

Kε, ε- ye nuulε wɔni,

But, when that person, 7:21

kɔtimɛsɛnyalɛ bɛ mui bɛ,
the court messengers themselves arrived, 7:23

pɛhin hi wɔŋ feelɛ patilai,
they said that we should pay the section money. 7:25

feelɛ wɛ hu ya ga kanga gai.
it was that money that I refused to pay. 7:27

Pɛhin, pɛm bɛti gbɔɔhɔn,
They said, they would cut my throat, 7:29

ha han ga hum kɔntiyɛ.
it happened that they arrested me. 7:31

Kɛ lani wɛ, yɛ pɛ ga kwe wɔ isɔndɛ,
But that, when they took the right from him, 7:34

hu ya ga kwe tɔntilɛ.
that was when I took a song. 7:37

Ya hwe, (singing): “Nɛgi len, nɛgi len.
I said, “Selfishness, selfishness.
TNg didn’t come up with good transl. for nɛgi, Mende ma mani go.

Nɛgi oo–o, nɛgi oo–o, ba bun bɛndɛ
Selfishness oh, selfishness oh, one old pa 7:44

A ma ca mu bɛŋdɛ bun oo,
I didn’t take one leg from you oh, 7:46

cɛ cɛ mu cɛ cɛ.
(gesturing to others to join in singing)

A ma ca mu bɛŋdɛ bun oo,
I didn't take one leg from you oh,

ɕɛ ɕɛ mu ɕɛ ɕɛ.

7:52

TNg: Wɛ hu komilɛ hu ga ceyɛ?

That's how a dance is put on? 7:53

(Gesturing to the women and AD to join in singing)

(The women join in clapping and sing the refrain. Camera moves to seated women.)

TNg: Ha pɛm gon tɔli tooni, wei? (Women and men say: Mm)

You will now listen a little, okay? 8:15

Kɛ ye koŋ hi gon lemi jali logi gbíyɛ,

But you've now explained all this business to us, 8:17

hi koŋ da go te vuí,

we've heard it all, 8:19

kɛ, yii go mu gon, ya go- ya mu yii gai.

but, to ask you now, I am asking you here. 8:24

JK: M-hm. Ya mu gbɛmbo.

H-hm. I will answer. 8:26

gbɛmbo = Mende. "answer." TNg. Bom should be baagiya.

TNg: Mum gbɛmbo.

You'll answer me. 8:27

JK: Ya la lem.

I'll explain it. 8:29

The owl, witches, and children

TNg: Mu hi bɔ, lemi hi jali tɛn toon.

Are you able, to explain to us, one small story. 8:33

JK: Tɛndɛ?

A story? 8:33

TNg: Mm, tɛndɛ toon go paa, si hi man gon.

Yes, a small story only, then we leave. 8:35

JK: Mm, ya go lemi.

Yes, I will explain. 8:38

TNg: Kɛsi n háɔ.

So do it. 8:38

JK: ɛ, numa bun wɔ ha ga cengi pɛi tii gagi yɛ,

Eh, one woman they used to hate her in town here, 8:43

ka ce lɛ Bwe Gbɛndɛ.

she was called Boi Gbende. 8:44

TNg: Bwe Gbɛndɛ.

Boi GBende. 8:45

JK: Mm. Ye ha ga cengi wɔ lɛ, ka gbem apumalɛ waan ni atɛŋ.

Yes. When they were hating her, she gave birth to 12 children. 8:49

Apuma logi waan ni atɛŋ logi,

These twelve children, 8:51

anyalɛ gbí ha ga ce wɔn hín sɔŋwɛilɛ.

all the people were laying witchcraft on her. 8:54

Ha kɔnti apumawɔɛ, ha ha ji,
They seized her children, they killed them, 8:56

Po- powɔɛ wɔ ga ce lɛ Biafɔgbwɛ.
Her husband was called Biafɔgbwɛ. 9:00

TNg: Biafɔgbwɛ.
Biafɔgbwe.

JK: Apumawɔɛ ha ga ce a tɛŋ.
Her children were two. (after the others died) 9:01

Kɛmubɛndo, Kɛmupomo.
Kemubendo, Kemupomu.

Han ha ga ce lɔwɛ.
It was they who were there. 9:04

Ye apumawɔɛ ha ji wɔ- ha ji hani,
When her children, they killed them,

ha ha ji, ha ha ji, numalɛ bɛ wɔ cɔgin tolai.
they killed them, they killed them, the woman herself went into the bush.
9:12

TNg: I.e., she almost went crazy.

Ye cɔgini tolaiyɛ,
When she went into the bush, 9:14

hu- hu wɔ ga ce gon tangi:
this is what she was crying: 9:19

(Singing:) Hwe, nkɔ Biafɔgbɔ.
She said, go, Biafɔgbɔ. 9:23

Ye nkɔ Biafɔgbɔ.

Go, Biafogbo. 9:25

Nkɔ, nkɔ, Biafɔgbɔ, kɔ la hɔ Kemubendu, Kemupomo kɛndɛ oo.

Go, go Biafogbo, go and tell Kemubendu that (we) didn't see Kemupomo
oh. 9:31

Oo, Santɛmpi booni oo,

(Chorus) Oh, Santɛmpi (we) didn't meet oh, 9:32

boon = to meet on a road. TNg says vowel is "drawn-out."

kɔn go go, Satɛmpi booni oo,

just go there, we didn't meet at Santɛmpi oh,

TNg: Humbɛ cen yei?

You yourself won't dance? 9:43

(To AD, who sits limply)

JK (speaking): Ni kitibgilɛ wɔ ye hun can kenwɔɛ bon.

The owl came and sat on top of her house. 9:48

Paandɛ.

In the evening. 9:49

Hwe, Bwɛ Gbɛndɛ, mui?

It said, has Boi Gbende arrived?

Mm, e lɔ wɔ hoga.

No, she did not come out of there. 9:54

Nuulɛ wɔ matin tolai.

That person is hiding in the bush. 9:55

(Singing:) Kon jɛge, kon jɛge jɛge kon jɛge Gbɛndɛ muin mɔ.

Koŋ jɛge, koŋ jɛge jɛge koŋ jɛge Gbende has not yet arrived. 10:01

(Others join in in this chorus. Women are clapping.)

JK (speaking): Numalɛ wɔ ye pɛi matin,
The woman was hiding again, 10:22

(Singing:) Hwe, nkɔ Biafɔgbɔ.
She said, go, Biafogbo. 10:26

Ye nkɔ Biafɔgbɔ.
Go, Biafogbo. 10:29

Nkɔ, nkɔ, Biafɔgbɔ, kɔ la hɔ Kɛmubɛndu, Kɛmupomo kɛndɛ oo.
Go, go Biafogbo, go and tell Kemubendu that (we) didn't see Kemupomo
oh. 10:36

Oo, Santɛmpi booni oo,
(Chorus) Oh, Santɛmpi (we) didn't meet oh, 10:38

kɔn go go, Santɛmpi booni oo,
just go there, we didn't meet at Santɛmpi oh, 10:43
JJK puts his hand over eyes as if searching for Kemupomo.

TNg: Ha po!
You get up! 10:49

(Song continues and women and TNg stand up and dance.

TNg: Tɔntilɛ ta kɛlɛŋ!
The song is fine! 10:59

Ibɔt!
Enjoyable! 11:05

JK: Lani la ye pɛi gben.

That is finished. 11:07

Cɔndɛ ni kitigbilɛ wɔ ye pɛi hun can kendɛ bon.

At night, then the owl came again and sat on top of the house. 11:11

Ye kitigbilɛ muinyɛ.

When the owl arrived. 11:13

Bwɛ Gbɛndɛ muin mɔ?

Boi Gbende has not yet come? 11:16

The owl is asking.

Pɛ hwe, “Mm̀m̀, matin tolai.”

They said: “No. (She) is hiding in the bush.” 11:17

(Singing:) Kɔŋ jɛge, kɔŋ jɛge jɛge kɔŋ jɛge Gbɛndɛ muin mɔ.

Kɔŋ jɛge, kɔŋ jɛge jɛge kɔŋ jɛge Gbende has not yet arrived. 11:20

(Singing this refrain continues and camera moves to women, who are still standing and singing)

JK (speaking and gesturing for the others to stop singing): Ni wɔ ye pɛi-wɔ ye pɛi matin,

And she hid again, 11:53

ni kɔn tolai.

and went into the bush. 11:54

Ni wɔ ye hwe,

And she said, 11:55

(Singing:) Nkɔ Biafɔgbɔ.

Go, Biafogbo. 11:58

Ye nkɔ Biafɔgbɔ.

Go, Biafogbo. 12:02

Nkɔ, nkɔ, Biafɔgbɔ, kɔ la hɔ Kemubendu, Kemupomo kɛndɛ oo.

Go, go Biafogbo, go and tell Kemubendu that (we) didn't see Kemupomo
oh. 12:08

Oo, Santɛmpi booni oo,

(Chorus) Oh, Santɛmpi (we) didn't meet oh, 12:11

(Putting hand over eyes as if searching for Kemupomo)

kɔn go go, Santɛmpi booni oo,

just go there, we didn't meet at Santɛmpi oh, 12:14

(Refrain continues with women dancing and singing)

Manu Joni: Hi kwɔ!

Let's go! 12:29

JK (speaking): Ni wɔ ye pɛi, ni kitigbilɛ wɛ pɛi mui,

And again, the owl arrived, 12:32

ni can kɛndɛ bon.

and sat on top of the house. 12:35

“Mm!” Hwe, “Bwɛ Gbɛndɛ muin mɔ?”

“Hm!” It said, “Boi Gbende has not yet come?” 12:38

Put hands on hips.

Hu, hu ha ga ce gon hain.

What they were now doing. 12:42

Hm, ɛ– Bwɛ Gbɛndɛ wɔ ga matin li bɛnbɛnbɛn,

Hm, eh– Boi Gbende has been hiding for a long long time, 12:48

hwe (singing), “a lapa oo, ya lapa go yim oo, ya lapa oo, ee, ye ye.”
it said, “I’m ashamed, I’m ashamed my mother oh, I’m ashamed.”
The owl is ashamed because the woman is never there.

“Humu kele go ya ndem la.”
“You are in the house, explain it to me.” 12:56

(Women start singing something else.)

TNg (singing to women): Humu kelen go, ya go hwe oo.
You in the house, I will speak oh.

JN: Ha mu kele go, ya ndem da.
You in the house, explain to me. 13:06

TNg: Hwe, yaamu kele go, ya ndem la, hiye, bæε?
Say, your mother is in the house, explain it to me, right, man? 13:09
(To JJ, to check the words)

JK (bringing another song): Ya dugɔ, ya dugɔ yim oo, ya dugɔ ee-e-e-,
I fall, I fall mother oh, I fall ee-e-e, 13:17

Lemda oo, yaam kele go,
Explain oh, the mother in the house, 13:20

Yim ka hwe, ya ma pɛi hɔ nkɔya oo,
My mother says, let me not speak bad things,

ya lapa oo ya lapa oo yim oo, ya lapa ee-e-e,
I’m ashamed oh, I’m ashamed oh my mother oh, I’m ashamed ee-e-e,
13:30

(Back to “my mother told me not to say bad things/I fell, mother oh” song;
with falling words, JK gestures to ground)

(At 13:54, JK brings back “Hwe nkɔ Biafɔgbɔ” song)

TNg: Hi gon migɛngwɛ.

We’re now finishing. 14:03

(As JK is singing): TNg: Ha gon kɔ can toon.

You now go sit a little. 14:11

(They all sit.)

END of VIDEO SEGMENT