

# Rasin Figye, *Se don nou*

Edited by Benjamin Hebblethwaite

Transcribed and translated by Benjamin Hebblethwaite, Myrlande Denis and Tahiri Jean-Baptiste



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<p>1.a Nou pral rele Bondye —Rasin Figye! anvan nou lapriyè devan Ginen yo. —Abye, n ap rele Granmèt la anvan. Nou pral met ajenou. Nou pral met ajenou pou nou priye nan pye Ginen yo.</p> <p>1.b Afoutayi!—Yi! Bila bila—Kongo! Lè bounda fache, kote l chita? —Atè!</p> <p>Èzili (Èzili Petwo) o, m pral rele pwèn an. —Bilolo! Èzili Mapyang o, m pral rele pwèn an. Mwen gen yon lwa ki danse nan tèt mwen. Jou ti nèg konnen non li, —m ap fè yo kado pwèn an. —Ayayayayay! —Se bon!</p> <p>1.c Fè yo wè o. Èzili Dantò, fè yo wè o. —Bilolo! —Amwey! Fè yo wè, Èzili Dantò. N ap fè yo wè, Èzili Dantò Dan Petwo. —Èzili Dantò ap fè yo wè. —Fè yo wè, Èzili Freda ap fè yo wè. —Mètès Èzili ap fè yo wè. ap fè yo wè. Lòt bò zile a —y ap wè n ap navige.</p> <p>1.d Nèg yo di, y a manyen mwen, se pa vre. —Bilolo! Nèg yo pral touye m, yo manti. Nan Sido o, si Dye vle. O, kay o si Bondye vle, woy. —Pwèn an, Bondye pa vle non.</p>	<p>1.a We're going to call on God. —Fig Tree Roots! before we pray in front of the Ginen. —Oh my, we're going to call the Lord first. We're going to kneel. We're going to kneel so we can pray at the feet of the Ginen.</p> <p>1.b Afoutayi!—Yi! Bila bila—Kongo! When an ass is angry, where does it sit? —On the ground!</p> <p>Oh Èzili (Èzili Petwo), I'm going to call the pwèn. —Bilolo! Oh Èzili Mapyang, I'm going to call the pwèn. I have a lwa who dances in my head. The day little guys know her name, —I'll give them the gift of the pwèn. —Ayayayayay! —That's enough!</p> <p>1.c Oh make them see. Èzili Dantò, oh make them see. —Bilolo! —Help! Make them see, Èzili Dantò. We'll make them see, Èzili Dantò Dan Petwo. —Èzili Dantò will make them see. —Make them see, Èzili Freda will make them see. —Mistress Èzili will make them see. will make them see. On the other side of the island —they'll see we're sailing.</p> <p>1.d The guys say, they'll deal with me, it's not true. —Bilolo! The guys are going to kill me, they lie. Oh in Sido, God willing. Oh, oh house, if God wants, whoa. —The pwèn, no God doesn't want it.</p>
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<p>Maji sou maji, wanga sou wanga, wi, m ap tann yo.</p> <p>1.e Leyogann m t al achte pwen an. —Bilo, bilo, bilo, bilo, bilo, bilolo! Leyogann m soti ak pwen an. M ap mouri yon jou Dimanch swa. Lè m ap antere, ti nèg p ap konn afè mwen. —M t al achte pwen an. —M t al dèyè pwen an—wi!</p> <p>2.a Afoutayi!—Yi! Bila bila—Kongo! Lè bounda fache, kote l chita? —Atè!</p> <p>Kòd, yo pote kòd. Yo pote kòd pou yo mare Figye m. —Bilolo! —Amwey! Moun yo pote kòd la, yo pa ka mare m, way! M pa ti kochon, nèg yo di y ap mare li. Figye, m pa ti kabrit, nèg yo di y ap mare li la. Danbala Wèdo (Ayida Wèdo), ti nèg se chen, mare li.</p> <p>2.b Elize, gangan nan Sido, rele lwa yo pou mwen. —Bilolo! —M rele Elize, Elize, Elize, Elize! —Bilo, bilo, bilo, bilo, bilo, bilolo! Mwen pa konnen konbyen lwa ki gen nan lakou sa. —Rasin Figye! —Wi, w al rele lwa yo, wi m prale! Rele lwa yo pou mwen—wi! —Ayayayayayay! —O wi, wi, wi, wi, wi, wi!</p> <p>2.c Wèdo, m rele Wèdo. Agawou Wèdo Yo pote kòd o, pou yo mare mwen. M pa ti kabrit mesye; yo pote kòd. —A, a, a, a, a!</p>	<p>Magic on magic, wanga on wanga, yes, I'm waiting for them.</p> <p>1.e Leyogann is where I went to buy the pwen. —Bilo, bilo, bilo, bilo, bilo, bilolo! Leyogann is where I left with the pwen. I going to die some Sunday evening. When I'm getting buried, little guys won't know my business. —I went to buy the pwen. —I went after the pwen—yes!</p> <p>2.a Afoutayi!—Yi! Bila bila—Kongo! When an ass is angry, where does it sit? —On the ground!</p> <p>Rope, they carry rope. They carry rope so they can tie my Fig Tree. —Bilolo! —Oh my! The people carry the rope, they can't tie me, oh my! I'm not a little pig, the guys say they're going to tie her. Fig Tree, I'm not a little goat, the guys say they're going to tie it here. Danbala Wèdo (Ayida Wèdo), the little guy is a dog, tie him.</p> <p>2.b Elize, Vodou priest in Sido, call the lwa for me. —Bilolo! —I called Elize, Elize, Elize, Elize! —Bilo, bilo, bilo, bilo, bilo, bilolo! I don't know how many lwa are in this yard. —Fig Tree Roots! —Yes, you'll go call the lwa, yes I'm going! Call the lwa for me—yes! —Ayayayayayay! —Oh yes, yes, yes, yes, yes, yes!</p> <p>2.c Wèdo, I called Wèdo. Agawou Wèdo, oh they carry rope, so they can tie me. I'm not a little goat, guys; they carry rope. —Ah, ah, ah, ah, ah!</p>
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<p>M pa ti kochon, Bondye, moun yo pote kòd. Men m pa rele ti bèf, yo pote kòd.</p> <p>2.d Sa m ap fè a, se don m li ye. Sa m ape fè a, se don m li ye. —Bilolo! —Anwey sa se don pa m li ye. Yo met mache vin gade —y a tande nouvèl, ayayay!</p> <p>3.a Afoutayi!—Yi! Bila bila—Kongo! Lè bounda fache, kote l chita? —Atè!</p> <p>Ede m kase fèy la. Pitit mwen malad, w a ede m kase fèy la. —Bilolo! Maladi pa rete a moun o. —Amwey, o! Maladi pa rete a moun o. Ede m kase fèy la, pou m soulaje zanfan yo. —M pral kase fèy la. —M pral manyen fèy la.</p> <p>3.b Twa fèy tonbe nan basin nan. —Bilolo! Twa fèy tonbe jou rezon an. —Twa fèy tonbe nan demanbre mwen. Amwey o, m a rele gran Èzili o. Kote m ap mete lwa yo?</p> <p>3.c Dan Petwo, m pa bezwen lajan yo, m p ap travay pou yo. —Bilolo! —M pa bezwen lajan pou sa yo, m ap travay pou yo, ane a kout o. Se pa mwen menm ki manman w, ane a kout o! sa w kwè y a fè mwen? —Wi, Dan Petwo silamasal doki a, pa rele m papa! M ap rele Dan Petwo, Petwo, Petwo, Petwo —Bilo bilo bilo bilo bilo bilolo!</p> <p>3.d Lafanmi yo, sanble.</p>	<p>I'm not a little pig, God, the people carry rope. But I'm not known as little cow, they carry rope.</p> <p>2.d What I'm doing, it is my gift. What I'm doing, it is my gift. —Bilolo! —Oh my, this is my gift. They can walk to come see —they'll hear the news, ayayay!</p> <p>3.a Afoutayi!—Yi! Bila bila—Kongo! When an ass is angry, where does it sit? —On the ground!</p> <p>Help me break the leaves. My child is sick, you'll help me break the leaves. —Bilolo! Oh sickness is no joke. —Oh my, oh! Oh Sickness is no joke. Help me break the leaves, so I can soothe the children. —I'm going to break the leaves. —I'm going to touch the leaves.</p> <p>3.b Three leaves fell into the sea. —Bilolo! Three leaves fell on the day of the reason. —Three leaves fell in my demanbre. Oh help, oh I'll call the great Èzili. Where shall I put the lwa?</p> <p>3.c Dan Petwo, I don't need their money, I'm not working for them. —Bilolo! —I don't need money for this, I'm working for them, oh the year is short. It's not me who's your mother, oh the year is short! What do you think they'll do to me? —Yes, Dan Petwo the <b>silamasal doki</b>, don't call me papa! I'll call Dan Petwo, Petwo, Petwo, Petwo —Bilo bilo bilo bilo bilo bilolo!</p> <p>3.d Families, assemble.</p>
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<p>Eritye yo, sanble. Lafanmi yo, sanble. Nou p ap kite lakou a tonbe! —Bilolo!</p> <p>4.a Respè pou fanm yo—se sa nou vle! Mesye, respè pou fanm yo —se sa nou mande alò!</p> <p>Mesye jèn gason k ap maltrete fanm yo. Fòk nou pa bliye, mesye, se yo ki manman nou. —Mesye gason yo, medam yo se manman nou, se vre. Yo fè manje, yo lave, yo pase. Medam yo fè manje, yo lave, yo pase. Lè solèy kouche, nou rele yo manman.</p> <p>Mesye, nou gen lè bliye ke se nou menm menm ki manman nou? Mesye, nou gen lè bliye ke se mwen menm ki ba nou tete? Mesye, nou gen lè bliye ke se mwen ki konn okipe nou? Mesye, nou gen lè bliye ke se mwen menm ki konn ba nou lanmou? Mesye, poukisa k fè se mwen menm menm nou pi maltrete?</p> <p>5.a Afoutayi!—Yi! Bila bila—Kongo! Lè bounda fache, kote l chita? —Atè!</p> <p>M pa te la, gade m antre. Mwen antre pou m al bay Rasin nan jarèt, way o! —Bilolo! —Adye, n ap ba yo jarèt, se vre. Nèg yo bliye sa Rasin fè pou yo. Nèg yo bliye sa Ginen fè pou yo. Se te nan yon ti katye yo rele Bwa Kayiman e. Pitit Rasin nan, fè seremoni an. Mwen di Boukmann fè seremoni sa. Jodi a, Ayisyen nou la e, nou devan blan mannan yo. —Mas Konpa men djaz ou!</p>	<p>Heirs, assemble. Families, assemble. We won't let the yard fall! —Bilolo!</p> <p>4.a Respect for women—that's what we want! Men, respect for women —so that's what we're asking for!</p> <p>Men, young men who are mistreating women. You must not forget, men, they are your mothers. —Men, the ladies are your mothers, it's true. They cook, they wash, they iron. The ladies cook, they wash, they iron. When the sun sets, you call them mother.</p> <p>Men, you must have forgotten that we are the ones who are your mothers? Men, you must have forgotten that it is I who breastfed you? Men, you must have forgotten that it was me who took care of you? Men, you must have forgotten that it is me who gives you love? Men, why is it that I'm the one you mistreat the most?</p> <p>5.a Afoutayi!—Yi! Bila bila—Kongo! When an ass is angry, where does it sit? —On the ground!</p> <p>I wasn't here, look I came in. Oh I entered so I could strengthen the Roots, oh my! —Bilolo! —Oh my, we'll strengthen them, it's true. The guys forgot what Roots did for them. The guys forgot what Ginen did for them. Hey it was in a little neighborhood they call Bwa Kayiman. Children of the Roots, do the ceremony. I told Boukmann, do this ceremony. Today, hey Haitians we are here, we're ahead of the poor white people. —Mas Konpa, here's your group!</p>
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<p>5.b Dye, ala kote lafanmi m yo malonèt o. Gade m kouche lopital, yo pa vini wè mwen. —Bilolo! —Adye, moun sa yo mechan, se vre. Y ap tann se lè m mouri pou yo ban m yon sèkèy o. Y ap tann se lè m mouri pou yo ba m yon sèkèy o. Jou lanmò mwen, y a va kontan. Jou lanmò mwen, y a va rejwi. Lè y ap rele lwa anba dlo, lè w monte, Kazo, w a pale avèk yo, lanmò pa yo deyè la.</p> <p>5.c Sa ki panse gen de bondye, gade chita moun sila yo, k ap goumen pou relijyon. —Bilolo! —Adye, kite yo goumen, se vre. Bondye kreye chak moun ak desten pa yo. Bondye kreye chak moun pou fè chemen pa yo. Volonte Bondye ki fè mwen la —kite m sèvi Ginen an. —kite m sèvi Ginen an, Makaya, m ap sèvi Ginen m.</p> <p>6.a Afoutayi!—Yi! Bila bila—Kongo! Lè bounda fache, kote l chita? —Atè!</p> <p>Manman m te pale mwen, pou m pa t sèvi ak moun sa yo. Moun ki pè soufrans la, se yo ki pi kriminèl. —Bilolo! —Adje, yo pi kriminèl, se vre. Ayayay! Valè mache yo mache, yo pa sa touye mwen. Valè lite yo lite, yo pa sa jete mwen. Sa k ap bwè avè w la, k ap manje avè w la, o way o. Fò w pa bliye se li k ka detwi lavi ou.</p>	<p>5.b Lord, oh how disloyal my family is. Look I'm lying in a hospital, they don't come to see me. —Bilolo! —Oh my, these people are truly evil. Oh they're waiting for when I die so they can give me a casket. Oh they're waiting for when I die so they can give me a casket. The day of my death, they'll be happy. The day of my death, they'll rejoice. When they're calling the lwa from under the water<sup>1</sup>, when you rise, Kazo, you'll talk to them, their death is behind here.</p> <p>5.c Those who think there are two gods, look at those people sitting, who are fighting for religion. —Bilolo! —Oh my, let them fight, it's true. God created each person with their own destiny. God created each person to make their own path. God's will is why I'm here —let me serve the Ginen. —let me serve the Ginen, Makaya, I'm serving my Ginen.</p> <p>6.a Afoutayi!—Yi! Bila bila—Kongo! When an ass is angry, where does it sit? —On the ground!</p> <p>My mother told me, not to deal with these people. People who are scared of suffering, they are the ones who are the most criminal. —Bilolo! —Oh my, they are truly the most criminal. Ayayay! As much as they walk, they can't kill me. Try as they might, they can't make me fall. Those who are drinking with you, who are eating with you, oh my oh my. You must not forget it's he who could ruin your life.</p>
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<sup>1</sup> This is probably a reference to the Vodou ritual that occurs one year after the *desounen* death rites. The soul of the dead ancestor is called forth by a Vodou priest and asked to communicate with the living members of the family.

6.b

Balmannan o—lwa m nan—ki mache lan  
nuit o, vin rakonte mwen sa w wè.

—Bilolo!

—Amwey, vini rakontre m, Balmannan,  
manman, manman. Wi!

A minwi yè swa, m rakontre ak dyab la.

Yon bò l se san, yon bò l se dife.

Je dyab la ret tou limen.

Dyab la griyen dan l sou mwen,

m tounen lafimen dife.

Gen granmoun pase granmoun.

—Wi, Balmannan, mannan, mannan,

mannan, mannan, mannan, mannan

mannan, li mache nan nuit o!

—Bilolo!

6.c

Sa mòn ta ye.

Menm si m ale la, m pa pral dèyè lanmò a.

—Bilolo!

—Manman nan, m p ap al chèche lanmò a, souple.

Ayayay! Wi!

Y al nan simityè sèt fwa,

pou detwi lavi mwen.

Yo ale devan Bawon sèt fwa

pou detwi lavi frè w la.

Etwal pa w la, Agasou poko file o.

Etwal pa w la poko file o.

7.a

Nou prale o, nan Ginen.

—Rasin Figye!

Nou pral rele lwa zansèt yo.

Pou nou di yo beni nou, n divize.

Yo pa t batay pou n ta viv chen manje chen.

Yo te batay pou linyon ak lapè.

Yo pa t batay pou n ta viv chen manje chen.

Yo te batay pou linyon ak lapè.

7.b

Twòp sitiran pran peyi a.

Y antre lè yo vle,

yo soti lè yo vle.

—Amwey! Yo antre lè yo vle,

se vre! Wi!

—Sa n ap fè?

Yo pa bezwen viza, nou menm,

lè pou n al lakay yo,

se anpil demach, tèt chaje.

6.b

Oh Balmannan—my lwa—oh who walks in the  
night, come tell me what you saw.

—Bilolo!

—Oh help, come tell me, Balmannan,  
mother, mother. Yes!

At midnight last night, I encountered the monster.

One of its sides was blood, the other side was fire.

The monster's eyes stayed lit up.

The monster grinned at me,

I turned into smoke.

There are adults who are beyond other adults.

—Yes, Balmannan, mannan, mannan,

mannan, mannan, mannan, mannan,

mannan, oh he walks at night!

—Bilolo!

6.c

Sa mòn ta ye.

Even if I went there, I won't go after death.

—Bilolo!

—My mother, I won't go looking for death, please.

Ayayay! Yes!

They went to the cemetery seven times,

to destroy my life.

They went in front of Bawon seven times

to destroy your brother's life.

Oh your star, Agasou hasn't made it fall yet.

Your star hasn't fallen yet.

7.a

O we're going, to Ginen.

—Fig Tree Roots!

We're going to call the lwa of our ancestors.

To tell them bless us, we're divided.

They didn't fight so we would live dog eat dog.

They fought for union and peace.

They didn't fight so we would live dog eat dog.

They fought for union and peace.

7.b

Excessive indulgence has overtaken the country.

They come in when they want,

they leave when they want.

—Oh my! They come in when they want,

it's true! yes!

—What will we do?

They don't need visas; as for us,

when we go to their house,

it's many proceedings, distress.

<p>Papa Desalin, nou di kote ou ye?</p> <p>7.c  Jou konba de Vètyè a,  se yon jou m p ap janm bliye.  Se pa de san ki koule  pou n libere o!  —Se vre!  —Amwey! Twòp san te koule, se vre.  An nou rele anperè Desalin o.  Ede m chante, papa Desalin o.  Voye lwa Ginen yo vin delivre nou.  Peyi a malad o.</p> <p>7.d  Ayisyen patriyòt,  an met tèt ansanm pou nou sove peyi a.  —Pale, pale, pale!  Boujwazi, dyaspora an n met tèt ansanm  pou nou sove nasyon an.  Nou gen lè pa wè jan pèp la  ap souffri.  Se pa etranje ki pou vin  sove peyi a,  se nou menm ayisyen ki pou sove peyi a.  Tèt ansanm mezanmi pou sove nasyon an.</p> <p>7.e  Chi, chi, chi, n ap kenbe yo.  —Bil, bil, bil!  Chi, chi, chi, n ap kenbe yo.  —Amwey! N ap kenbe yo, wi se vre.  —Sègo, n ap kenbe yo, wi se vre.  Depi m simen mayi m atè,  m ap kenbe yo.  Amwey o, depi n simen mayi n atè,  n ap kenbe yo.  Yo renmen pouvwa ak lajan.  —n ap kenbe yo.  —Rasin Figye, bon bagay!</p> <p>7.f  Fè yo wè o, ayisyen frè m yo,  fè yo wè o.  —Bilolo!  —Amwey! N ap fè yo wè.  —Wi, n ap fè yo wè, laboujwazi,  n ap fè yo wè!  —Fè yo wè, ayisyen lòt bò,  fè yo wè!  —Ayisyen lakay, fè yo wè,</p>	<p>Papa Dessalines, we say where are you?</p> <p>7.c  The day of the Vètyè battle,  it's a day I will never forget.  Oh so much blood was shed  so we could be liberated.  —It's true!  —Oh my! Too much blood was shed, it's true.  Oh, let's call emperor Dessalines.  Oh, help me sing, papa Dessalines.  Send the Ginen lwa to come deliver us.  Oh the country is sick.</p> <p>7.d  Haitian patriots,  let's put our heads together to save the country.  —Speak, speak, speak!  Bourgeoisie, diaspora let's put out heads together  to save the nation.  You must not have seen how the people  are suffering.  It's not strangers who should come  save the country,  it's us Haitians who have to save the country.  Unity, my friends, so we can save the nation.</p> <p>7.e  Chi, chi, chi, we're catching them.  —Bil, bil, bil!  Chi chi chi, we're catching them.  —Oh my, we're catching them, yes it's true.  —Sègo, we're catching them, yes it's true.  As long as I sow my corn in the ground,  I'm catching them.  Oh help, as long as we sow corn in the ground,  we're catching them.  They like power and money  —we're holding them.  —Fig Tree Roots, good stuff!</p> <p>7.f  Oh make them see, my Haitian brothers,  oh make them see.  —Bilolo!  —Oh my! We'll make them see.  —Yes, we'll make them see, the bourgeoisie,  we'll make them see!  —Make them see, Haitians in foreign lands,  make them see!  —Haitians at home, make them see,</p>
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<p>laboujwazi, I ap fè yo wè!  Fè yo wè o, ayisyen frè m yo,  fè yo wè o.  Fè yo wè o, Ayiti chanje.  N ap fè yo wè, Ayiti chaje,  mezanmi!  Fè yo wè,  an de mil kat la, y a wè n ap avanse.  —Woy, se bon!</p>	<p>the bourgeoisie, it'll make them see!  Oh make them see, my Haitian brothers,  oh make them see.  Oh make them see, Haiti has changed.  We'll make them see, Haiti has changed,  oh heavens!  Make them see,  In 2004, they'll see that we're advancing.  —Oh, it's good!</p>
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