Rigaud’s (1953) Vodou Songs

Transcribed and translated by Benjamin Hebblethwaite, Musset Apolon and Tahir Jean-Baptiste

This file provides the corrected Haitian Creole texts and their translations from Milo Rigaud’s (1953) work, *La tradition voudoo et le voudoo haïtien, son temple, ses mystères, sa magie*

http://www.dloc.com/AA00002240/00001/130j

1
Legba Gran Chemen, nou prale.
Ago... Ago Ye!
Legba Gran Chemen, nou prale wè si na pase.
Legba Gran Chemen, nou prale wè, Papa, si na pase.
Si na pase Gran Chemen, mon wa!
Si na pase, Legba;
si na pase...
Ago! Gran Chemen, nou prale wè, Papa, si na pase.
O Ago! ... Ago Ye! (rit yanvalou)

2
Danbala Wèdo, gade pitit ou yo, he!
Ayida Wèdo, men pitit ou yo, he!
Danbala Wèdo, gade pitit ou yo, o!
A ye, a ye, o!
Danbala, men zanfan ou la. (rit yanvalou)

3
Toulejou Makandal ape pale ak Desalin,

The acclamations of some of Vodou’s rites:

*Ayibobo* – Rada rite (Dahomey)
*Aoche Nago* – Yoruba rite
*Arotayi* – Kongo rite
*Tchya-vodò bountayi* – Rada rite
*Soy-Ibo [soi-ibo]* – Ibo rite
*Bilolo!* and *Adyoman!* and *Bounda fache a tè, kote li chi? A tè* – Petwo rite (Rigaud 1953:349fn)

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Desalin pa vle koute.
I. ape moute desann lakay Loman.
Loman fè li dou.

Dessalines does not want to listen.
He is going back and forth to Loman’s home.
Loman makes him soft.

4 [63]
Defile wè;
Defile pe!

Nan Pon Wouj sila a,
Loman fè Desalin dousman.
Grann Alouba Ouganman, konplo sila a,
li fò pase wanga.
Jeneral Desalin o! Gade mizè mwen,
gade traka peyi a,
peyi a chavire.

(Defile, fanm fou a ki te ranmase moso kò
Desalin)

5
Lanperè Desalin o!
Kle ounfò a lan men ou deja,
pa kite li gate.
Ou se vanyan gason,
pa kite peyi a tonbe,
li lan men ou deja.

Oh Emperor Dessalines!
The key of the ounfò is already in your hands,
do not let it spoil.
You are a valient man,
do not let the country fall,
it is already in your hands.
Loko De, Loko Miwa Ze, Lanperè Desalin, pa kite peyi a gate.

De Loko, Loko Miwa Ze, Emperor Dessalines, do not let the country spoil.

6 [68]
Loko De, Wa De,
Loko Miwa o!
Lanperè Desalin,
kle ounfò a nan men ou,
ou p ap kite li gate peyi a.
Loko De, Wa De,
Loko Miwa o!
Lanperè Desalin,
kle ounfò a nan men ou,
ou p ap kite li gate peyi a.

6
Loko De, King De,
oh Loko Miwa!
Emperor Dessalines,
the key to the ounfò is in your hands,
you will not let it spoil the country.
Loko De King De,
oh Loko Miwa!
Emperor Dessalines,
the key to the ounfò is in your hands,
you will not let it spoil the country.

7 [69]
Fire the cannon, Marinèt; fire the cannon...
Fire the cannon, Marinèt; fire the cannon...

7
Fire the cannon, Marinèt; fire the cannon ...
Fire the cannon, Marinèt; fire the cannon ...

8 [70]
Eya! Mètress Boukan.
Eya! Mètress Boukan.
Eya! Loa Lyon!
Eya! Loa Lyon!

8
Oh yeah Boukan Mistress!
Oh yeah Boukan Mistress!
Oh yeah Lion Lwa!
Oh yeah Lion Lwa!
9 [120]
*Kawolin Sezi; se lwa mwen…*
Danbala Wèdo, m ap ba w Bondye.
M se kreyòl Kongo, m pa sòt o!
Danbala Wèdo, kote ou ye?
Solèy la leve nan peyi Kongo! (rit Kongo)

9
*Kawolin Sezi; she’s my lwa…*
Danbala Wèdo, I will give you God.
I am a Kongo Creole, oh I am not dumb!
Danbala Wèdo, where are you?
The sun rises in Kongo country! (Kongo rhythm)

10
Benga, manman mwen!
O, Zoklimo pale, yo pa koute.
Wèy o!
Benga manman,
si ou pa tounen nan peyi a,
pouse ale Zo wi…
Pouse ale Kenbwa Salay,
Pouse ale, **mi salòy**! (rit Kaplaw).

10
Benga, my mother!
Oh, Zoklimo talks, they do not listen.
Oh my!
Mother Benga,
if you do not go back to the country,
yes go away Zo…
go away Kenbwa Salay,
go away, **mi salòy**! (Kaplaw rhythm)

11
O Legba kòmande!
Vye Legba kòmande!
Kòmande yo. (rit Rada)

11
Oh Legba commands!
Old Legba commands!
Command them. (Rada rhythm)
12
Baskets cover baskets, Ibo nation.
Baskets cover baskets.
Here are baskets! Granny Ibo, here are baskets.
Baskets cover baskets, Ibo nation ...
(Ibo rhythm)

13 [121]
Look at me here Tate!
Oh! Look at me here Tate Kofre!
Bo Wanminan.
Wanminan, we are laying like this , yeah!
Wanminan, hey! look, I am torn.
(Anmin rhythm)

14
Oh yeah Zan.
Oh yeah Zan Zan... Ibo nation!
Oh yeah Ibo nation!
Long live the Ibo nation!
Where is Granny Ibo? Ewa!
Hey! The Ibo king eats dogs...
(Ibo-Mondong rhythm)
15
Ayi, manman, en!
Tanbou mwen rele...
Jou m alonje... ayi!
Ayi! Manman. (rit Petwo)

16
Twou sa... twou sa...
rele twou Salengwo.
Na rele twou Salengwo.
Twou sa... twou sa...
rele twou Salengwo!
Twou sa... twou sa...
Rele twou Salengwo! (rit Salengwo)

17
Zandò!
Li ale, Zandò!
Ki lè li ye?
Zandò!
Li ale, Zandò! (rit Kita Zandò)

18
Ouanminan!
Ça ça y e, Ouanminan?
Tâliz-Coffrez.
Ça çà y e?
A-Lah-Da dêrêvè : ça li ye, Ouanminan Garè dé !
Wanminan!
Sa sa ye, Wanminan?
Tate Kofre, sa sa ye?
Alada derive.
Sa li ye, Wanminan gad o?
(rit Anmin Makanda)

Wanminan!
What is this, Wanminan?
Tate Kofre, what is this?
Alada derives.
What is it, oh Wanminan gad.
(Anmin Makanda rhythm)

Manman Brigitte! Manman mwen!
O! ou wè sa:
Alantou kay la, genyen dife ladan li.
Nou chache bwa pou nou sanble dife;
Nou chache dlo pou nou touye dife;
Lapli pa tonbe…
Ou pa wè? Tè a glise.
(rit Yanvalou)

Mother Brigit! My mother!
Oh! You see that:
Around the house, there is fire inside it.
We look for wood to assemble a fire;
we looked for water to put out the fire;
it did not rain…
Can’t you see? The ground is slippery.
(Yanvalou rhythm)

Bagi a lovi, monwa!
Se sa, m a wè yo.
Ayi! Manmoulevi.
Se sa, Mayi Gwetò.
Podyab! Posso nou de…
E! anye!
(rit Yanvaloufla Vodoun)

The lovi altar, my king!
That’s right, I will see them.
Ayi! Manmoulevi.
That’s right, Mayi Gwetò.
Poor thing Posso us both...
Hey! Oh yeah!
(Yanvaloufla Vodoun rhythm)
20b.
(Chant pour le mystère Madmoiselle Anaise)

Annayiz! An Nago, pitit la ape kriye…
Ye, ye! Ba li tete. Ye, ye!
...(li) ape kriye, ye, ye!
Bali tete, ye, ye!
Gade: m nan baton. Ye, ye!
Ba li tete, ye, ye!
(rit Mayi)

21
(Chant pour le mystère Nan Kiyou)

Kouzen Nankiyou, se pa sa ou te di mwen.
Ou te di mwen konsa:
Jou ou a plaçe avè m, ou a mariè avè m…
Nanpwen wob, nanpwen chemiz.
Granmesi, yon pye mango ki te gen anba a
Ki pare lonè mwen.
(rit Matinik)

22
(Chant pour le mystère Ogou Chalode)

Liki, liki ô!
Liki, liki ô!

Ogou Shalode…
Papa Ogou Jacouman, Papa Ogou Shalode.
Liki, liki ô!
Liki, liki ô!
Ogou Shalode…
Papa Ogou Jakouman,
Papa Ogou Chalode.
Liki, liki o!
Liki, liki o!
Ogou Chalode… (rit Krabiy Nago)

Papa Ogou Jakouman,
Papa Ogou Chalode.
Oh Liki, Liki!
Oh Liki, Liki!
Ogou Chalode ... (Krabiy Nago rhythm)

23 [123]
(Chant pour le mystère Legba)

Legba nan ounfò mwen!
Legba nan ounfò mwen!
Ou menm ki pote chapo,
se pou pare solèy pou mwen…
Legba Kongo nan ounfò mwen,
Mondong Mousayi nan ounfò mwen.
(rit Kongo)

23
(Song for the spirit Legba)

Legba is in my temple!
Legba is in my temple!
You who wear hats,
block the sun for me ...
Legba Kongo is in my temple,
Mondong Mousayi is in my temple.
(Kongo rhythm)

24
(Chant pour le mystère Marinèt-limen-dife)

Marinèt Bwa Chèch,
ou pa genyen byen pou ou wè.
Limen difè.
Ti Jan, ou pa ganyen byen pou ou wè.
Limen difè.
Chanprèl, ou pa genyen byen pou ou wè.
Limen difè.
Marinèt bwa chèch…
Limen difè. (rit Petwo)

24
(Song for the spirit Marinèt-Light-the-Fire)

Marinette Skinny Legs,
you have no wealth to see.
Start the fire.
Ti Jan, you have no wealth to see.
Start the fire.
Chanprèl, you have no good to see.
Start the fire.
Marinèt dry woods...
Start the fire. (Petwo rhythm)
Toussaint té mouri mal, oh!
Li-menm (Dessalines) pas pe mouri mal.
Dessalines, towo d’Ayiti,
Ya kanbanda,
Moin sans manman, sans papa,
Yo fine touyer toute race-la,
Yo pa touye moin.
Toussaint té mouri mal, ooooh!
Li-menm pas pe mouri mal.
Dessalines c’è toro d’Ayiti.
Jour-là, hé!
Parole-là té palée déjà.
Dessalines Gangan,
Parole-là té palée déjà...

Oh Toussaint died *unjustly*!
As for him (Dessalines),
he is not afraid of dying *unjustly.*
Dessalines, chief of Haiti,
Ya kanbanda,
I am without a mother, without a father,
They killed the whole race,
They did not kill me.
Oh Toussaint died *unjustly*;
he is not afraid to die *unjustly.*
Dessalines is the chief of Haiti.
The day, hey!
The word was already spoken.
*Gangan* Dessalines,
the word was already spoken…
(Petwo rhythm)

Legba-Grand-Chemin, nous pr’alé.
Ago...... Ago Yé !
Legba-Grand-Chemin, nous pr’alé ou sé si n’a passé ;
Legba-Grand-Chemin, nous pr’alé ou sé, Papa, si n’a passé.
Si n’a passé grand-chinin, mon roï !
Si n’a passé, Legba ; si n’a passé......
Ago ! Grand-Chemin, nous pr’alé ou sé, Papa, si n’a passé.
O Aoo !...... Aoo Yé !

Chant pour Legba,
loa des portes et des routes
(Song for Legba,
spirit of doors and of roads)
Legba Gran Chemen, nou prale.
Ago... Agoye!
Legba Gran Chemen,
nou prale wè si na pase.
Legba Gran Chemen,
nou prale wè, Papa,
si na pase.
Si na pase, Gran Chemen, mon wa!
Si na pase, Legba;
si na pase…
Ago! Gran Chemen,
nou prale wè, Papa, si na pase.
O Ago! ... Agoye! (rit Yanvalou)

Legba Gran Chemen, we are going.
Ago... Agoye!
Legba Gran Chemen,
we are going to see if we will pass.
Legba Gran Chemen,
We are going to see, Papa,
if we are going to pass.
If we will pass, Great Path, my king!
If we will pass, Legba;
if we will pass…
Ago! Gran Chemen,
we are going to see, Papa, if we will pass.
O Ago! ... Agoye! (Yanvalou rhythm)

(Chant pour Danbala et Ayida Wèdo)

Danbala Wèdo, gade pitit ou yo, hey!
Ayida Wèdo, men pitit ou yo, hey!
Danbala Wèdo, gade pitit ou yo, o!
Anye, anye o!
Danbala, men zanfan ou la.

Danbala Wèdo, look at your children, hey!
Ayida Wèdo, here are your children, hey!
O Danbala Wèdo, look at your children!
Oh yeah, oh yeah!
Danbala, here are your children.

(Song for Aloumandya, one of the mét tèt spirits personally served spirits of Dessalines; Aloumandya is associated with the spirits Osany Bakoule and Ogou Badagri)
Hey Aloumandya!
Oh Osany!
Oh Ogou!
It is Osany Bakoule who asks for the flag.
Hey Aloumandya!
Oh Osany!
Oh Ogou!
It is Ogou Badagri who asks for the flag,
we are all blocked... (Nago rhythm)

Cé chance oh ! O, cé chance oh !
Cé pas wanga ou gangnin ; cé chance oh !
Grande Erzulie Frédéa, cé chance ou gangnin.
Cé pas wanga ou gangnin ;
Cé chance, ô Maitresse.

Hey ya hé ! Hé ya Mousondi !
Loa cila-á, c’é loa Mousondi...
Hey ya hé ! Hé ya Mousondi !

Eha he! eha Mousondi!
this spirit, is the spirit of Mousondi…
Eha he! Eha Mousondi!
(Kongo-Krabi rhythm)
(Chant-degré compose par le mystère Brize)

Lennmi bare mwen kay Santo
M pase deja
Zombie bare mwen kay Santo
Kay Santo, m pase deja! (rit Kata)

(Protective-song was composed by the spirit Brize)

Enemies stopped me at Santo’s house.
I already passed
Zombies stopped me at Santo’s house
At Santo’s house, I already passed! (Kata rhythm)

[Song for Gede Nibo, chief of the cemetery]

E! Gwo sen, gwo lwa…
Gede Nibo egare!
E! gwo sen, gwo lwa…
Papa Gede egare. (rit Banda)

[Song for the Spirit of John Zombi]

Jan Zombie! Wi wa, ba!
Kondwi m ale.
Y ap bwè tafya pou yo fè tenten
devan lwa mwen.
Jan Zombie! Wi wa! Wi wa!
Kondwi m ale.

Jean Zombie! Oui-Oua, ba !
Conduis-m' allé.
Y a p' boué tafia pou yo fait tintin
Devant loa moin.
Jean Zombie ! Oui-Oua ! Oui-Oua !
Conduis-m' allé.
[Chante pou Ayanman]

32
Ayanman! Ibo Lele, Lele, Lele!
Ayanman Ibo Lele!
Ayanman sa, konsa;
Ayanman danse konsa.
Ou pile pye m, ou pa di m padon.
Ayanman sa, kon sa.
Ayanman sa kon sa.
Sa padon ta fè pou mwen? (rit IBO)

[Chant for Zo Klimo]

33
Zo! Kòman sa ye?
Zo Benga, papa! Kòman sa ye?
Zo Klimo, papa! Kòman sa ye?
Si ounsi tonbe, pa kite l gate
avan yo fouye twou. (rit Kaplaou)

[Song for Ayanman]

32
Ayanman! Ibo Lele, Lele, Lele!
Ayanman Ibo Lele!
This Ayanman, like this;
Ayanman dances like this.
You step on my feet, you do not say sorry.
This Ayanman, like this.
This Ayanman, like this.
What would an apology do for me?

[Chant for Bone Klimo]

33
Zo! How is it?
Zo Benga, man! How is it?
Zo Klimo, man! How is it?
If an ounsi falls, do not let her spoil
before they dig the holes.
34 [134]
Gran Ayizan
Salye Legba!
A lè kile,
Lajan kase wòch.
M ap mande kouman ye?
Salye Legba.
Kreyòl sonde miwa legba.
Ayizan vye, vye.
Kreyòl sonde miwa legba.
Legba vye, vye.
Kreyòl, sonde miwa Atibon Legba!

34
Great Ayizan
Greet Legba!
At this time,
Money breaks rock.
I am asking, how are you?
Greet Legba.
Creole rings Legba’s mirror.
Old, old Ayizan.
Creole rings Legba’s mirror.
Old, old Legba.
Creole, ring Atibon Legba’s mirror!

35 [137]
Solèy o!
Ati Dan! Ibo Loko!
Solèy o!
Papa! Ou pas moune ici.
Archange o! Ou sòt li,\nSolèy o!
Papa Loko, ou pa te vini pou ou rester,
Pourtant, ou pas capab traverse…
Solèy o!

35
Oh sun!
Ati Dan! Ibo Loko!
Oh sun!
Papa! You are not from here.
Oh Archangel! You come a long way,
Oh sun!
Papa Loko, you did not come to stay,
However, you cannot cross...
Oh sun!
Papa Sobo lan Houmfor, li mande drapeaux.
Drapeau ci-là, étoué...
Papa Sobo lan Houmfor li mande drapeau Loa m’lan
O drapeau-cà, étoué...

36 [183]
Papa Sobo nan ounfò, li mande drapo.
Drapo sìla, ale wè…
Papa Sobo nan ounfò li mande drapo lwa m nan
O drapo sa ale wè…

36
Father Sobo is in the ounfò, he asks for the flag.
This flag, go see...
Papa Sobo in the ounfò, he asks for the flag of my spirit
Oh this flag, go see...

Hé ya Grand Père Éternel, sinn djió é...
Hé ya Grand Père éternel, sinn djió docor akoué...
Hé ya Grand Père éternel, sinn nan min bon Dieu ho sinn han
Hé ya Marassas Guinin, sinn djió é...
Hé ya Legba Attibon, sinn djió é...

37 [188]
E ya gran pè etènèl, Sin djiyo e…
E ya gran pè etènèl, sin djiyo dòkò akwe…
E ya, gran pè etènèl, si n nan men Bondye, osinan.
E ya Marasa Ginen, sin djiyo e…

37
Eh ya, great lord father, Sinn djiyo eh...
Oh yeah great father, lord, Sinn djiyo dòkò akwe
Oh yeah, great lord father, if we are in the hands of God, oh osinan...
Eh ya Twins of Ginen, sinn djiyo eh...

Moin yenvalou yenva, moin yenva, o corani yé...

38 [189]
Mwen Yanvalou Yenva,
Mwen Yenva, o korani ye…

38
I am Yanvalou Yenva,
I am Yenva, oh hey korani...

O Miguel o, mayofré... Miguel o éha mayofré...
O Mayofré, Legba Atibon... O Mayofré, Loco Atisou...
O Mayofré, Grande Ahizan Vélékélé. O Miguelo, o Mayofré...

39
O Migèl o, Mayo frè…
Migèl o eya mayo frè…
O Mayo frè, Legba Atibon…
O Mayo frè, Loko Atisou…
O Mayofré, gran Ayizan Velekete.

39
Oh Migèl, Mayo brother...
Oh Migèl oh yeah Mayo brother...
Oh Mayo Brother, Legba Atibon...
Oh Mayo Brother, Loko Atisou ...
Oh Mayo Brother, great Ayizan Velekete.
0 Migèl, o Mayo frè... Oh Miguel, Oh Mayo Brother...

**Ah é planté i poteau é ! Legba planté i poteau é...**

40
A e plante i poto e! Oh hey plant the center post!
Legba plante i poto e... Hey Legba plants the center post!

**Hé a Koklo a déni yé, Papa Legba yan ouézo o an ouézo...**

41 [190]
E a koklo a deni e, Oh yeah the rooster is deni,
Papa legba nan wezo o, an wezo Papa Legba in wezo oh, in wezo

**M'pral boulé go zin pour Loa Alouba, ma pr'al boulé go zin**
**Go zin çò, go zin Dan Ballah Oueddo... »**

42
M pral boule gozen pou lwa Alouba. I will burn gozen for the lwa Alouba.
M a pral boule gozen. I will burn gozen.
Gozen sa, gozen Danbala Wedo... This gozen, Danbala Wedo’s gozen …

**Go zin moin a p' prend di feu.... A i bobo !**

43 [192]
Gozen mwen ap pran dife... Ayibobo! My gozen is catching fire... Ayibobo!

**Tolisha Legba m' di yé... a hi massah i toto... Salué Nago yé !**
**Salué Nago, Négue Nago Royor, Ago Tolisha, salué Nago... yé !**

44 [193]
Tolicha Legba m di ye... Tolicha Legba, I say hey…
Ayi masa yi toto... Salye Nago ye! Ayi masa yi toto... hey greet Nago!
Salye Nago, nég Nago wòyò, Greet Nago, Nago wóyò man,
Ago Tolicha, salye Nago... ye! (rit Nago) Hey Ago Tolicha, greet Nago…! (Nago rhythm)
45
E, liki liki e; Jan Pòl Nago; ya ye!
Liki, liki e… Ogou Chalodè…
Liki liki o, o Nago; Ogou Ashadè.

45
Hey, liki liki; Jean Paul Nago; oh yeah!
Hey Liki, Liki … Ogou Chalodè…
Oh Liki Liki, oh Nago; Ogou Ashadè.

46 [194]
Dya rele dyadya keke, keke dya!
Dya rele dya!
Gede Nibo! Dya keke, keke dya!
Baron Samedi! Dya keke, keke dya!

46
Dya called dyadya keke, keke dya!
Dya called dya!
Gede Nibo! Dya keke, keke dya!
Baron Samedi! Dya Keke, Keke Dya!

47 [196]
O goli ye, goli ye wa,
pòt-drapo, goli ye…
O Gilimen goli ye wa, goli ye wa o
pòt drapo…
O pòt drapo!
Pòt drapo, ban mwen lanmen pou m'levè!
O Goli ye wa, goli ye wa o pòt drapo…

47
Oh goli ye, goli ye wa,
flag-bearers, goli ye…
Oh Gilimen goli ye wa, oh goli ye wa,
Oh flag-bearers…
Oh flag-bearers!
Flag-bearers, give me a hand so I can get up!
Oh goli ye wa, goli ye wa, oh flags-bearers…

48 [210]
Onè la mezon (3)
Onè mètresse kay mwen.
M kriye: onè la mezon
Mesye e dam, bon swa.

48
Honor for the house(3)
Honor for the mistress of my house.
I cried: honor for the house
Ladies and gentlemen, good evening.
Legba nan ounfò mwen (3)
Ou menm ki pote drapo,
Se ou menm k a pare solèy pou mwen.
Papa Legba nan ounfò mwen (3)
Ou menm ki pote drapo,
Se ou menm k a pare solèy pou lwa yo.

49
Legba in my ounfò (3)
You who carry the flag,
It's you who will block the sun for me.
Papa Legba in my ounfò (3)
It is you who carries the flag,
It's you who will block the sun for the spirits.

Saluez moin Gangan, saluez moin. A Apò Legba saluez moin, Gangan salu-é
Papa m’c’è piti’ Boucan Maza ; Papa m’c’è piti’ Brise Montagne.
Oui, saluez moin, salu-é moin o…
Papa, m’c’è piti’ Silamoyo.

Récitatif :
Oui ! saluez moin Brise Montagne,
Crazé les os, crasé les membres,
Nég’ Kassa Bambila, Bila Congo, Bila Louvemba…
Saluez moin, Gangan .............................

50
Greet me gangan, greet me.
Ah Apò Legba greets me,
gangan greet my father
He’s Boukan Maza’s child;
my father is the son of the Briz Montay.
Yes, greet me, oh greet me…
My father is the son of Silamoyo.
Yes! Greet me Briz Montay,
Breaking the bones, breaking the arms,
Kasa Banbila man,
Bila Congo, Bila Louvemba ...
Greet me, gangan…..
51
Kay mwen santi foula,
o Toutou Bilango.
Makaya, m santi foula…
Twa fèy, twa pwen, m santi foula!
Toutou Bilango.
Kay o… kay o… kay mwen santi foula,
Toutou Bilango!

51
My house smells like vaporized rum,
oh Toutou Bilango.
Makaya, I smell vaporized rum...
Three-leaf, three points, I smell vaporized rum!
Toutou Bilango.
Oh Home… oh home...
my house smells like vaporized rum,
Toutou Bilango!

52
Batala o Batala e—yan Pongwe,
Simbi Andezo—Batala o, o Batala,
Simbi Kongo—Batala o, o Batala,
Simbi An Paka—Batala o, o Batala.
E yan Pongwe!
Simbi An Kita—Batala o, o Batala.

52
Oh Batala, hey Batala—Yan Pongwe,
Simbi Andezo—Batala oh, oh Batala,
Simbi Kongo—Batala oh, oh Batala,
Simbi An Paka—Batala oh, oh Batala.
Hey Yan Pongwe!
Simbi An Kita—Batala oh, oh Batala.

53
Marasa Simbi, m angaje nan peyi a.
Marasa Ginen, Marasa Lakôt,
Marasa Lafrik, m angaje nan peyi a!

53
Simbi Twins, I am in trouble in the country.
Marasa Ginen, Marasa of the Coast,
African Marasa, I am in trouble in the country.
Kounba kabrit telekou e.
Hey goat kounba telekou.
Kounba, kounba kabrit, telekyou e,
Hey Kounba, goat kounba, telekyou,
kabrit telekou...
telekou goat’s...

55 [216]
Tout fanmi an, yo sanble...
La fanmi sanble.
E, kreyòl, o nou la.
Ago ye!
La fanmi sanble.
Nanpwen Ginien ankò...

55 All the families, they have assembled...
The family has assembled.
Hey, Creole, oh we are here.
Ago ye!
The family has assembled.
There is no more Ginien...

56
Vin peye san,
seremoni an bèl o...
La fanmi, vin peye san non!
Seremoni a bèl o...
O... a a yo... lafanmi, vin peye san!

56 Come pay for the blood,
oh the ritual is beautiful...
Family, come and pay for the blood!
Oh the ritual is beautiful...
Oh... ah to them... family, come pay in blood!

57
Simbi nan baryè, zòt poko konnen mwen.
Simbi’s at the gate, others do not know me yet.
Ala nou rive, nou prale gate,
We have arrived here, we’re going to spoil,
koumande.
command!
Gade nou rive, nou prale gate
Look, we arrived, we’re going to destroy
koumande!
command!
Ye! Simbi Andezo, Yanzaka Pongwe!
Yeah! Simbi Yandezo, Yanpaka Pongwe!
M di: ye! Kenbwa Salay! Salam a salay!
I said: yeah! Kenbwa Salay! Salam a salay!
Simbi nan baryè, zòt poko konnen mwen.
Simbi at the gate, others don’t know me yet.
Zo... Adié Zo... Tabatyè m' tòmbè, côté m'a joinn’ li?  
Zo... Adié Zo... (ter)  
Oui ! Ò Kim’boi ma salay ! Simbi Yan Paka ! Simbi Ian Dézo !  
Oui ! Simbi Ian Kita ! Grande Adjyakonve, Grande Simba !

58
Bones... Oh goodness bones... my Tabatyè fell,  
Where will I find it?  
Bones... oh goodness bones... (3)  
Yes! O Kenbwa ma salay! Simbi Anpaka!  
Simbi in Two Waters! Yes! Simbi in Kita!  
Great Adjyakonve, Great Simbi!

Papa Simbi racine coumandé.  
Fœuilles nan bois, c'è moin-minme Racine o o o o.  
Simbi Ian Dézo racine coumandé !  
Fœuilles nan bois, c'è nous-minme... Racine o o o o.

59
Papa Simbi, rasin kòmande.  
Fèy nan bwa, se mwen menm rasin o.  
Simbi Andezo, rasin kòmande!  
Fèy nan bwa. Se nou menm, rasin o.

Papa Simbi, the root commands.  
Leaves in the trees, oh it’s really me.  
Simbi Andezo, the root commands!  
Leaves in the trees. It is us, oh roots.

Moin nan san korali ouan-nié... En ye !  
Moin nan san Simbi Ian Dézo, Simbi Ian Paka...  
Allez mander Jean-Pierre Pong'oué.  
Ya ye, moin nan san hé...

60
I am in the blood of korali wanniye... oh yeah!  
I am in the blood of Simbi Andezo,  
Simbi Anpaka...  
Go ask Jan Pyè Pongwe.  
Yeah hey, I am in the blood...

Mwen nan san korali wanniye... anye!  
Mwen nan san Simbi nan Dezo,  
Simbi Anpaka...  
Ale mande Jan Pyè Pongwe.  
Ya ye, mwen nan san e...
61 [246]
Lafanmi sanble... en e o...
Lafanmi, sanble non...
e Agweto, sa ede [hin'dé].
N a va ede yo ...
Lafanmi, en e o...
N a va ede Papa Loko Atisou.
Lafanmi sanble... en e o...
N a va ede gran Ayizan Velekete.
Lafanmi sanble... en e o...
Lafanmi sanble non,
e Agwetò, Gwètò sa hende...
N a ede Marasa Dosou Dosa Dogwe.
E Agwètò! Ou ka ede yo vre.

62 [259]
Eya! Marasa: dosou, dosa, sendyô e!
Eya! Legba Atibon, sendyô, Dye kwaye...¹

---

¹ Rigaud (1953) notes that this is the altered pronunciation of “Do-coi Agoueh” or “Do-cor A-koué” which might be rendered in the IPN Haitian Creole spelling system as Dokwa Agwe or Do-kò A-kwe.
We are touching the ground\(^2\) here, Sofi Badè, come and touch the ground here.

I masa touches the ground.

Asoungenikon, ago ye!

Akalis agrees, ago ye!

Ounsi, touch the ground here.

I masa touch the ground!

(rit Yanvalou ansyen)

Go, go me go go; go, go, go, go, ekou gba go, go!

Wangan wiping, Gede;

We'll sole all out!

(rit Yanvalou Doba)

Tò, Masi, Masa; go le we, izagon.

Izagon, go le we; Is ago li.

Sobo ye!

Agwe Tawoyo, Tò Masi Masa.

---

\(^2\) In Vodou, *dogwe* refers to the moment in ritual when the Vodouists touch the ground with their hands and then tap their hearts twice.
Banga, manman mwen... Oh! Zoklimo parle, yo pas couté.
Koi yo!
Banga, manman! Si ou allez, ou p'a pe tounin...
Poussez aller Zo oui.
Poussez aller, kim’boi salay,
Poussez aller, mi saloy!

Banga, oh my mother...
Zoklimo speaks, they don’t listen.
Oh my!
Banga mother! If you go, you do not return...
Yes, go away Zo.
Go away, Kenbwa salay,
Go away, mi saloy!

O Yégueh ! O Yégueh ça-à!
Parlez pitites-là yo ; houn’sih can-zo, parlez houn’sih bossales.
Parlez houn’sih là yo.
Houn’sih bossales, parlez houn’sih can-zo.
Lan Guinin ou p’r alle marcher, Téméraire.
O, Lé Yégueh, Papa !
Oui, lan Guinin, Papa, nous p’r alle ouè yo.
O Yégueh ! O Yégueh ça-à !

Oh Yege! Oh, that Yege.
Warn the children;
ounsi kanzo, warn ounsi bosal.
Warn these ounsi.
Ounsi bosal, warn ounsi kanzo.
In Ginen, you will boldly walk.
Oh, le Yege, papa!
Yes, in Ginen, father, we will go see them.
Oh Yege! Oh this Yege!

Ye ! C’est en bas ou soti, ou a pé monté.
— M’soti en bas, m’a pé monté...
Un peu d’eau m’passé mander.
— Un peu d’eau Cousin (Zaca) mandé nous,
Ti goutte d’eau Cousin mandé nous,
Non point goutte, oh !
— Oh ! M’soti en bas, m’a pé monté...
L’estomacque moi qu’a pé crazé...

Ye ! C’est en bas que tu viens. Tu es en train de monter...
— Je sors d’en bas, je suis en train de monter...
Je suis venu demander un peu d’eau.
— C’est un peu d’eau que Zac a nous demande ;
Une petite goutte d’eau que Cousin nous demande,
Mais il n’y a pas de gobelet !
— Oh ! Je sors d’en bas, je suis en train de monter.
Mon estomac se brise...

Ye! Se anba w soti, w ape monte.
M soti anba, m ape monte...
Yon pe dlo m pase mande.
Yeah! You are from below, you’re ascending.
I am from the bottom, I’m ascending...
I am asking for a little bit of water.
Yon pe dlo Kouzen Zaka mande nou,  
Ti gout dlo Kouzen mande nou,  
Nanpwen gode o!  
O! m soti anba m ape monte…  
Lestomak mwen k ape kraze…  

Kouzen Zaka is asking us for a little bit of water  
Kouzen asks us for a little bit of water  
Oh there are no cups!  
Oh! I am from below and I’m ascending…  
My stomach is breaking…

69 [348]  
N a remèsye, n a remèsye yo…  
Apré Bondye, n a remèsye yo.  
Apré Bondye, nou la; n a remèsye yo;  
N a remèsye Dye devan ougan,  
N a remèsye n a remèsye yo.  
N a remèsye ougenikon,  
N a remèsye ounsi kanzo… (rit Yanvalou)  

69  
We’ll thank, we will thank them…  
After God, we will thank them.  
After God, we’re here; we will thank them;  
We will thank God before the oungan,  
We will thank the still waters of the oungan…  
We will thank, we will thank them.  
We will thank ougenikon,  
We will thank ounsi kanzo… (Yanvalou rhythm)

70  
Banga manman mwen… O, Zoklimo!  
Ou pale, yo pa koute. Way o!  
Banga manman, si w ale,  
ou pa tounen nan peyi a.  
Poussé ale, Zo wi…  
Poussé ale, kenbwa salay,  
Poussé ale, mi saloy.  

70  
Banga my mother… Oh, Zoklimo!  
You speak, they do not listen. Oh my!  
Banga mother, if you go,  
you don’t come return to the country.  
Yes go away, Zo…  
Go away, kenbwa salay,  
Go away, mi saloy.

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Minoke Legba ago Legba.
Ago Legba, ago Legba!
Go Legba, go Legba.
Minoke ago Legba...

Zouzou zouzou zi za, yi mankou twile.
Bleo, bleo...
Marasa Ginen, a yi mankou twile;
Bleo, bleo...
Yo mankou twile, marasa Ginen;
Bleo, bleo...

Yoruba original said to be know in Haiti:
— Olih kolo mon deh, abobo!
— A wa na...:
— N’wa e, abobo...
Abobo fo laga jigi légan
— Ikou kati, ko ka mi...:
Ehou mi kpon, é ma gnon:
O lou iébé Ifé,
To é mé médeh ma non yi ré
Lobi Olo-run

Se mwen ki pote sekēy, abobo!
A! Se ou menm?
Wi, se mwen, abobo!
M gen pouwva pou m rete chante
anpeche lanmò pran m,
paske si ou touye m, se yon krim,
piske se gran wa Ife,
kote motèl pa janm ale,

It is me who carries coffins, abobo! 
{Abobo} is a central Haitian Creole expression of praise that is also used in the secular sphere to express great joy.

French translation offered by Rigaud:
— Je suis le porteur de cercueil, Abobo!
— Ah! Ah! C’est toi?
— C’est bien moi, Abobo...
Je coupe l’air (le chant) avec autorité.
Garde-moi de la mort insatiable...
Me tuer serait un crime,
Car le Grand Roi d’Ifé
Le pays où ne vont pas les vivants,
A crée la Lumière.

3 The oungenikon sings “abobo!” in between songs, to cut into the rhythms in songs, and to interrupt songs (Rigaud 1953:349). 

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ki ban nou limyè. who gives us light.

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74[388] O, ounsi mwen! Kote ou prale?
Ago! Nannan Wèdo...
ounsì mwen, papa mwen,
Kote ou prale? E, ago e!
Ago! Nannan Wedo...
Ountò! Rele ountò e, Papa Sobo.
Wi! Ountò a... ladogwesan.
Sobagi Sobo, nou la; lè n a mouri,
n a kite repo pou yo.
Eya, Bon-Gan, Bon-Gan Ilè (Ife)!  
Oungan, ago! Legede, Bon-N’gan, 
Voyez rele Bogan. 
O, Man-Yanvalou Micho!

---

74 Oh, my ounsi! Where are you going?
Ago! Inside of Wèdo...
My ounsi, my father,
Where are you going? Hey, ago hey!
Ago! Inside of Wèdo...
Ountò! Hey call Ountò, Papa Sobo.
Yes! the Ountò... community of the heritage.
Sobagi Sobo, we’re here; when we die,
We shall leave them in peace.
Eya, Bon-Gan, Bon-Gan Ilè (Ife)!  
Oungan, ago! Legede, Bon-N’gan, 
Go and call Bogan.
Oh, Manyanvalou Micho!

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75[392] Bakosou antre,
Bakosou rive,
Dede, o Savalou,  
Bakosou enters, 
Bakosou arrives, 
Dede, oh Savalou,

---

4 Ountò is a Vodou spirit who dwells in the very tall ountò drum.
Ogan, dede, ogan Savalou,
Dede Ogan, Ogan e e e e e....

Ogan, dede, Ogan Savalou,
Dede Ogan, hey Ogan....

---

Bha roulé, Agouéh-Tó...

---

76 [393]
Ba roule, Agwetô! (Repeat over and over)

76
Roll low, Agwetô! (Repeat over and over)

---

Savalou is the name of a town in Dahomey and Benin today.