

Gede San Limit

Transcribed and translated by

Benjamin Hebblethwaite, Myrlande Denis and Tahiri Jean-Baptiste



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MUSICIENS

SIMONE CHERY *Mambo Diela*

JULMIS PIERRE • MONIQUE PIERRE
DIEUBON ALERTE • MORIL MORISSEAU
GLADYS LAFLEUR • GYSLÉNE LOUIS
CIVILE LIFÉTE • VIERGELA LAGUERRE
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| <p>1a. <i>Gede popouri</i> Kwa!—Kwa! Kwa Senbo—Kwa! Kwa lakwa—Kwa! Kwa dèyè kwa—Kwa!</p> <p>O, Kwa—m ap prale. Simityè di m konsa yo pa bezwen m ankò. Sa k fè yo pa bezwen mwen, paske mwen malere. Lè yo bezwen m, yo rele m, papa. Lè yo pa bezwen mwen, yo rele m tafya. Simityè di m konsa, yo pa bezwen m ankò, sa k fè yo pa bezwen mwen—pase mwen malere.</p> <p>O, kwa Senbo, kite m ale o! —Kwa!</p> <p>1b. Ede m rele, kat pwen voye di yo konsa, ede m rele. —Kwa! Ede m rele, kat pwen voye di yo konsa, ede l kriye. N ap monte wo, wo, wo. N ap desann ba, ba, ba. Ede m priye!</p> <p>1c. O lafanmi Gede Nibo mache sanble o. —Kwa! O lafanmi papa Gede mache sanble o. Avèk twa santim sila, fò m wè longè yo. Avèk senk santim sila —n a wè longè yo.</p> <p>1d. O chay la lou. —Kwa! O, chay la lou a, li lou a—pase kò mwen. —O, Gede Nibo, lwa mwen! Ede l pote, men l tounen yon bèt chay o. Ede m pote, men m tounen yon bèt chay o.</p> | <p>1a. <i>Gede potpourri</i> Cross!—Cross! Senbo’s cross—Cross! Cross, the cross—Cross! Cross behind cross—Cross!</p> <p>Oh Cross—I’m going. Simityè told me that they don’t need me anymore. The reason they don’t need me, because I’m poor. When they need me, they call me, papa. When they don’t need me, they call me boozier. Simityè told me that they don’t need me anymore, The reason they don’t need me—because I’m poor.</p> <p>Oh, Senbo’s cross, oh let me go! —Cross!</p> <p>1.b Help me yell, four pwen sent to tell them, help me yell. —Cross! Help me yell, four pwen sent to tell them, help him cry. We’ll climb high, high, high. We’ll go down low, low, low. Help me pray!</p> <p>1c. Oh the Gede Nibo family walk and assemble. —Cross! Oh papa Gede’s family walk and assemble. With these three cents, I shall see how long they are. With these five cents —we’ll see what they’re worth.</p> <p>1d. Oh the load is heavy. —Cross! Oh, the load is heavy, it’s heavier—than my body. —Oh, Gede Nibo, my lwa! Help him carry it, oh he’s become a beast of burden. Help me carry it, oh I’ve become a beast of burden.</p> |
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| <p>1e. M rele kwa, papa, mwen p ap bliye. —Kwa! M p ap bliye, gad koulè kwa a —m sonje pou jou a. Lè yo bezwen mwen, Jakobè yo rele mwen. Lè yo bezwen mwen, Pitigwat yo rele mwen Men yo rele mwen. Lè yo bezwen m, piti kwa, yo rele mwen.</p> <p>2a. <i>Tèt yoyo ti sourit</i> Kwa!—Kwa! Kwa Senbo—Kwa! Kwa lakwa—Kwa! Kwa dèyè kwa—Kwa!</p> <p>O ti sourit, ti sourit, se nan pèlen an ou rete. —Kwa! Rat, ki rat, se nan pèlen an ou rete. Tèt Yoyo men pa w, Yoyo pral leve pa w. M p ap taye fanm nan jou solèy leve. Pwa m kale tou wouj, konpliman, konpliman. —Langèt madivinèz, m pa bezwen chandèl pou m klere.</p> <p>2b. Yoyo, bobo. —Kwa! —Anye nou balanse fò, gouye! Yoyo, bobo. Fanm sa ki gen yon gwo langèt. Langèt li klere pase yon fèy tòl. M pral desann lavil o —m pral achte yon langèt pou m fè l kado. Woyoyoyoyo koko! Yoyo o koko!</p> <p>2c. O kaporal Bondye, de gouden sa w ban mwen an. —Kwa Senbo! —Ey, Gede Nibo, papa! Kaporal o, de gouden ase w ban mwen an, valè konyen ou fin konyen mwen</p> | <p>1e. I called the cross, papa, I won't forget. —Cross! I won't forget, look at the color of the cross —I remember for the day. When they need me, they call me Jakobè. When they need me, they call me Pitigwat. Look they call me. When they need me, little cross, they call me.</p> <p>2a. <i>Dick head little mouse</i> Cross!—Cross! Senbo's cross—Cross! Cross, the cross—Cross! Cross behind cross—Cross!</p> <p>Oh little mouse, little mouse You stay in the trap. —Cross! Rat, little rat you stay in the trap. Penis head here's yours, Penis is going to lift yours. I won't have sex with the woman the day the sun rises. My bean's been peeled all red, Congratulations, congratulations. —Lesbian's clitoris, I don't need a candle to shine.</p> <p>2b. Penis, vagina. —Cross! —Oh yeah, we're rocking, we're grinding. Penis, vagina. This woman who has a big clitoris. A clitoris that shines brighter than a sheet of iron. Oh I'm going down to the village. —I'm going to buy a clitoris so I can give it to her as a gift. Woyoyoyoyoyo vagina! Dick oh pussy!</p> <p>2c. Oh corporal God, these two pennies you gave me. —Senbo's cross! —Hey, Gede Nibo, papa! Oh corporal, these two pennies you gave me, as much as you fucked me hard</p> |
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| <p>—de gouden ase w ban mwen an.</p> <p>3a. <i>Mete Veye</i> Kwa!—Kwa! Kwa Senbo—Kwa! Kwa lakwa—Kwa! Kwa dèyè kwa—Kwa!</p> <p>Mete veye a, mete veye. —Kwa! Mete veye a, mete veye. Pase m t ape pase, mwen tande Wonsiyon¹ lakay la ey. Mete veye, se vòlè l ye. —Way! Masala, Masala, mwen tande wonsiyon nan kay la.</p> <p>3b. Wòy! Ewa, nan tchou a w o! —Kwa! Amwèy, ewa nan tchou a w o. O ewa nan tchou a w. nan tchou paradi a so. Nan tchou Alegba la nan syèl la o.</p> <p>4a. <i>Sosis Gayè</i> Kwa—kwa! Kwa Senbo—kwa!</p> <p>Masala, Masala, vin wè on gouyad o! —Kwa! Masala Masala vin wè on gouyad o! Masala Masala—sosis gaye o!</p> <p>4b. O twa ti bwa dòmi nan chanm mwen. —Kwa! Kat ti bwa leve nan chanm mwen. Twa ti bwa dòmi nan chanm mwen. Kòlèt yoyo l—rache.</p> <p>5a. <i>M a Rele Amwey</i></p> | <p>—two cents is all you give me.</p> <p>3a. Keep watch. Cross!—Cross! Senbo’s cross—Cross! Cross, the cross—Cross! Cross behind cross—Cross!</p> <p>Keep watch, keep watch. —Cross! Keep watch, keep watch. While I was passing, I heard the troupe of spirits at home, hey. Keep watch, he’s a thief. —Why! Masala, Masala, I heard the troupe of spirits in the house.</p> <p>3b. Oh my! Oh my, up your ass! —Cross! Oh heavens, oh my, up your ass. Oh my, up your ass. In the ass of paradise. Oh in the ass of Alegba in the sky.</p> <p>4a. <i>Scattered sausage</i> Cross—Cross! Senbo’s cross—cross!</p> <p>Masala, Masala, oh come see some grinding! —Cross! Masala Masala, oh come see some grinding! Masala Masala—oh sausage is scattered.</p> <p>4b. Oh three little penises slept in my room. —Cross! Four little penises awoke in my room. Three little penises slept in my room. The shaft of his cock—tore.</p> <p>5a. <i>I’ll call out oh heavens</i></p> |
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¹ “The *Wonsiyon* are a series of Spirits that accompany the *Lwa Mèt Tèt* (a Vodou servant’s main spirit) and modify somewhat the amplitude and the frequencies of its vibration or presence. Perceived as energies of very neighboring vibrations, they add their own frequencies to the one of the *Lwa Mèt Tèt* in order to generate new vibrations and frequencies. Consequently, they modify the amplitude or the character of the individuals by their presence. It is due to the contribution of the *Wonsiyon* that everyone attains ultimately what may be called ‘the irreducible personality’ or the uniqueness of the individual.” (Max Beauvoir from <http://www.vodou.org/thenanm.htm>)

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| <p>Kwa!—Kwa! Kwa Senbo—Kwa! Kwa lakwa—Kwa! Kwa dèyè kwa—Kwa!</p> <p>Bezwen yon bato pou m vwayaje. —Kwa! M bezwen yon bato pou m vwayaje. M bezwen yon bato pou m vwayaje, men twòp Gede bare teras la o. M a rele amwey, Nouyòk o.</p> <p><i>6a. Anba Limyè a</i> Kwa!—Kwa! Kwa lakwa—Kwa! Kwa dèyè kwa—Kwa! Kwa Senbo—Kwa!</p> <p>O yèreswa, —Kwa! gran frè papi voye di anba limyè a gen yon koko k ap chavire. —O balanse manbo ey! O n ap balanse, n ap gouye. Ou manje manje mwen, ou al pale pawòl mwen. Ago ey! Se pa koko, se yon krèk k ap chavire. —Ou fin manje m nan. —W ap pale pawòl mwen. —Apa w manje manje m nan! —W ap pale pawòl mwen.</p> <p><i>7a. Pa Ban m tout</i> Kwa!—Kwa! Kwa Senbo—Kwa!</p> <p>Pa ban m tout, ban m moso ladan l. —Kwa! Zandolit te di manman l, zandolit te di papa l, Blengbendeng! Nan seminè a, koupe tèt zozo bourik o la la. Se lakadans tout krèk—vole baryè. —Langèt, langèt!—vole baryè. —Men tout krèk!—vole baryè.</p> | <p>Cross!—Cross! Senbo’s cross—Cross! Cross, the cross—Cross! Cross behind cross—Cross!</p> <p>I need a boat so I can travel. —Cross! I need a boat so I can travel. I need a boat so I can travel, but too many Gede block the way oh. I’ll call out oh heavens, oh New York.</p> <p><i>6a. Under the light</i> Cross!—Cross! Senbo’s cross—Cross! Cross, the cross—Cross! Cross behind cross—Cross!</p> <p>Oh last night, —Cross! Older brother papi sent word that under the light there’s a vagina that’s flipping over. —Oh rock it manbo hey! Oh we’re riding it, we’re grinding. You ate my food, you went and spoke my word. Ago hey! It’s not a vagina, it’s a clitoris that’s flipping over. —You finished my food. —You’re speaking my word. —You ate my food! —You’re speaking my word.</p> <p><i>7a. Don’t give me all of it</i> Cross!—Cross! Senbo’s Cross—Cross!</p> <p>Don’t give me all of it, give me a piece of it. —Cross! The lizard told it’s mother, the lizard told it’s father, Blengbendeng! In the seminar, oh cut off the head of the donkey’s penis. It’s the cadence of all clits—jump the gate. —Clitoris, clit!—jump the gate. —Here are all the clits!—jump the gate.</p> |
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