

11.

GFA: In #11, the sogo drum is saying, "*Koeda koeda*," which means, "Throw it." It is like one warrior saying to another, "If it is a gun or a sword, a cutlass or a bow, then throw it to me. Whatever you have, do it and let's see." Our old people have a way; you can shoot them with a gun, but the bullet will turn to be water, and you can throw a spear at them, but they can hold it. That is what this rhythm is about. It is a challenge. One strong person is asking his enemy, "Whatever you have to throw at me, yes, throw it." He means to be saying, "You are thinking that you can do things to overcome me, but you are actually deceiving your soul."

DL: The meaning of this one is very close to #10, isn't it?

GFA: Yes. In song #11, when they say "*xeke*" they are talking about a warrior. It is not a bird they are talking about; they are reflecting the meaning onto a human being. They say, "Which person thinks that he could be more of a warrior than us? Who could be our front? No one can stand in front of us, putting himself as a greater warrior than us." That is exactly the understanding of this song: What kind of man thinks he is more smart or strong than us? That will not happen. "*Wo wo wo*," "No, no, no." "*Aye aye*," "That is not going to happen." "*Tulasagbogbe*" is one of the *du* in Afã, an Afã divination. That is why Mr. Dewornu wrote that it is an Afã song. An enemy to be in front of us on the battlefield? It is not going to happen. As long as we have strong warriors, that person cannot have room.

DL: There are many Agbekor songs like that.

GFA: So many Anlo songs that are like this. [Sings an Agbekor song.] This song is all about motives of strength. Anlo people always sing about their power, their struggles, and that kind of stuff. Agbadza is always about war, about who is who in power struggles.

DL: Torgbui, you call our attention to whether the texts should be written "*wɔdza*" or "*wɔda*."

GFA: "*Wɔdza wɔdza*" is the Fon language for that song. In the Fon language, "*wɔdza*" means "to throw." In the Ewe language, we say, "*wɔda*." In Africa, some people sing "*wɔda wɔda*" and some say "*wɔdza wɔdza*." We do it both ways.