

9.

GFA: The drum language is written right here, "*Kpata kpata dzi*," which means, "It is on spot." The drums raise an alarm for the warriors. When warriors get that message, they react to it like an alarm blowing. When that happens you have got to be on spot, you have got to go. This is like the first song. These songs have a force element; do things right away without waiting too long. When the composer says, "*galezome*," it is like saying, "Hey, we have to go and fight and get all these stones from this place." Why wait? You can't wait. Forces come together on the battlefield. It becomes a question of who actually will fight, save the town, and come back. Those are the only people selected for rewards. In the olden days, those people will be honored with warrior stools. When you fight the right fight and defeat the enemy, then you expect your rewards. Rewards are given to whom? The real fighters who survived the battle. That is what this song is about.

DL: When you say "on the spot" in English, what do you mean exactly?

GFA: It is like your house is on fire, what do you do? You leave your house all of a sudden, immediately.

DL: It reminds me of the line from an Agbekor song, "*So kpe dze tu dzi*," "So's stone has fallen on the gun," or, "Lightning has struck, it time for action!"

GFA: Exactly. War songs often are like that.

DL: Why is it important to write down the drumming pattern, "Dzi gada gada dzi?"

GFA: Even though it carries the same meaning, it is where a sogo drummer starts his improvisations. If we don't write it down, maybe an inexperienced drummer will play "gada gada dzi" non-stop and never bring his improvisations.