

6.

GFA: The composer of this song is talking about *bese*, frog meat. In our tradition, when you eat frog, you might be killing your own spirit, a spirit that you have arranged to help you do things that you have planned. When you eat *bese*, you have to be extra careful. In the song, a guy had been bragging that he has the power to overpower other people, but as soon as he ate the frog, he gets defeated. Why? he ended up killing himself. The one who thought he could defeat others ended up the loser. In other words, this song's composer is telling us, " You only have one idea. Despite all your voodoo preparations, there are people who have more power than what you think." In other words, a single person can not fight a town. No matter how strong you are, you can't beat a whole town. You alone cannot defeat a town. Do you think that can happen here in Medford? Can the mayor defeat everybody? No! Somebody will overcome him because he is only one among thousands of people.

The drum is saying "*koko koko*," you are going to be the loser. Instead of "*enu kpe du ge*" [vernacular Ewe language], "*adzankoge*" is a proverbial way of talking. They use that one to balance that word out, "You become the loser. You thought you alone could defeat everybody." It is like saying, "Two heads are better than one." That is why I combined the drum and the song.

DL: A lot of Kpegisu songs that I studied with Godwin Agbeli carry the meaning that a person should be a member of a group. "If you take yourself to be a solo individual, take yourself away from joining a group or being in community, it will be trouble for you. It is better to be a sociable person than to be trying to do things by yourself." Would you say that is something like they are saying here?

GFA: Exactly. That is very true of this. You know, Kpegisu is also a war music. Some of the Kpegisu songs are related to these Agbadza songs. Some of the Agbadza songs derive from Kpegisu and some Kpegisu songs come into Agbadza. They are all songs of people at war so they have the same kinds of thoughts.