

12.

DL: Could you tell us what the song means and why you chose this drumming?

GFA: The composer says, "It is only on the desert that we can meet." [Reads Ewe words.] What desert does he mean? The battlefield, that is where they would like to sleep. In other words, if they are conquered, they want to end up on the battlefield. In the olden days, when warriors go to war, they have to be fighting until it is all over. The losers will be dead on the battlefield; then you know who the winner is. Let me tell you a top secret: if you are my war leader and get killed, I have to fight and make sure I bring your head back home. If I leave your head for the enemies, that means they have had revenge on our village. That is the Anlo warrior way. If your war leader is killed, you the younger brother have to make sure that the dead one's head is brought back home. You can leave the body on the desert, but the head needs to be cut off and carried back home. When they talk of the end of the war, that is the result.

The only way you can have a war is if two people meet. You can't fight by yourself. You invite the second fellow to come, you meet, and you fight. This is why they say, "*Do va mikpe*," "Come on, let's meet." We will meet together to see who is going to be the winner. It is like Mohammed Ali versus George Forman in boxing: unless they are in the ring. Someone from Mexico and someone from Ghana, they have to invite them, they fight, and they see who is who. You have to come out, but if you are hiding somewhere, no fighting. That is the reason why I put this song on that drum pattern. A warrior must find this resource, the courage to meet together, to fight, and see who the winner is.

DL: The kidi rhythm on this one is the same as the kidi in #1 but the sogo is a little different. Torgbui, when you are playing the sogo drum *gakitsigí*

GFA: If I don't do that, it will sound like "*Kpɔ 'fe go dzi*." This will give you "*Do va mikpe*" instead of "*Kpɔ 'fe go dzi*." The sogo must pronounce "*Do va mikpe*" instead of "*Kpɔ 'fe go dzi*." That is the only difference. Like we have it #9, the drummer stops playing the call and begins bringing out his creativity after he plays "*gada dzi dzi*."