Mamou Kamissogo

Ala Taanu
[Grace to God]
Transcribed and Translated by: Kassim Diallo

Ala ba n’yi taanu la, Masa ala ba n’yi taanu la. [x2]
[Great God, we give you grace, all powerful God, we give you grace.] [x2]

I ye munu son wolu ma fenk’ye, I k’an munu je an nu fana ma fen ki la.
[That which you have given without doing anything for you, and us that have been lessened have not done you wrong.]

Ala ba n’yi taanu la, Masa ala ba n’yi taanu la. [x2]
[Great God, we give you grace, all powerful God, we give you grace.] [x2]

Ala ba n’yi taanu lo lo, Masa ala ba n’yi taanu lo lo.
[Great God, we give you grace, all powerful God, we give you grace.]

I ye munu son wolu ma fenk’ye, I k’an munu Je an nu fana ma fen ki la.
[That which you have given without doing anything for you, and us that have been lessened have not done you wrong.]

Ala ba n’yi taanu la, Masa ala ba n’yi taanu lo lo.
[Great God, we give you grace, all powerful God, we give you grace.]

I ye dolu ke nafolo tigi di, kana dolu ke bolokolon di; Ni be farala masa ala de la
[Some live in abundance, just as much as others have nothing; All depends on His will.]

Ala ma mogo si je; Fo min ka jo itala.
[Great God provides for everyone; except for one that is not satisfied enough with what he has got.]

I ye dolu ke den tigi di, kana dolu ke den ku tan di.
[Some have children while others have never had.]}

Ala ma mogo si je; Fo min ka jo itala.
[Great God provides for every one except for that is not satisfied enough what he has got.]

[refrain]

Na na na na! Ne baa.
[Oh!!! Sweet mother!]

Golo fola, lu karamogo le golola kuma.
[Master of the drum, make that skin talk.]  

*Soro Bolo Mamare* Idrissa Kulibali.
[Soro Bolo Mamare* Idrissa Coulibali.]
*Soro Bolo Mamare- sacred name of the Coulibali lineage.

I te golola kuma doni doni.
[Offer us some rhythms from the skin.]

Bala fola lu karamogo ee Tugumayi Dyabate.
[Master player of the balaphone, Oh! Tougoumagni Diabate.]

Kala Jala Samoyi* Mande bala la kuma n’ye.
[Kala Jala Samoyi* make the Mande balaphone sing.]
*Kala Jala Samoyi- sacred name of the Diabate lineage.

Goni fola lu karamogo lee Laji Sisoko.
[Master player of the Ngoni, Ladji Sissoko]

Fabali mamare den Mande.
[Son of Fabali Mamare of Mande]

Mande goni la kuma doni doni.
[Make the strings of the Ngoni sing softly, softly.]

Kuma ni foli de kadi gnogon ye.
[Lyrics and music always make a good household*.]
*make a good household- are compatible

File folalu karamogo file la kuma.
[Master of the flute, make us hear the beautiful melody of the flute.]

Jeli muso min kuma kan di, Mamu Kamisogo.
[This griot expressing herself is Mamou Kamissogo.]

Ne bora sora lu la gine jamana la.
[I’m a descendent of the sora from Guinea Konakri.]
Duna ni taana tara fila ni kaya  
Nani bodugu ni balaniko*.  
[*Sacred name of Kamissogo lineage.]

Lasine Kamisogo [den] le Jeli muso le kuma la.  
[This griot expressing herself is the daughter of Lasine Kamissogo.]

Dawo muso ledi; jeli be kuma la.  
[This brave woman Dawo; It’s me the griot that speaks.]

Duna ni tana tara fila ni kaya  
Nani bodugu ni balaniko*.  
[*Sacred name of Kamissogo lineage.]

[Refrain] [x2]