

## **A To Ala Ma**

### **Salia Sanou interview**

Transcribed and Translate by: Kassim Diallo

**A ni sogoma. Ne togo le ko Salia Sanou. N'wolola Bobo dyulaso folikelaw ceman.**

[Hello. My name is Salia Sanou. I was born in Bobo Dioulasso surrounded by musicians.]

**Ne ye foli kanu ka foli dege.**

[I liked music and I learned music.]

**N'ye jembe baara ke. N'ye jembe fola babaw ye, komi Adama Konate. Ale te balo la bi.**

[I do Djembe work. I knew big djembe players like Adama Konate. He is no longer alive.]

**Jembe fo dyara n'ye, dundun fo dyara n'ye, goni fo dyara n'ye**

[I like playing the djembe, I liked the dundun, I liked the ngoni.]

**Komi wolu te balola bi ne nin korow, an y'an bolo fara gnogon kan ka grupu sigi.**

**Grupunin togo ko 'a to ala ma'.**

[Since the last generation is no longer alive, my big brothers and I, we got together to found the group. This group is called "A To Ala Ma".]

**Foli min do.... Folola foli tun ka cya cogo min na, a kadi mogow ye cogo min na sisan foliw te tan.**

[It's a genre of music...before the music varied one way, and the way that people were appreciating it, now the music has changed.]

**(Bon) cyaman ta don foli ye fen minye. (Donc) an y'an bolow fara gnogon kan hali bi.**

[Well, many don't know what music really is. So, we put hand in hand until now.]

**An banba ne do jembe foli, dundun foli ni balan foli ni donkililaw ma, an ka farafina bolow kana tunu.**

[We persist playing the balaphone and singing, so that African culture does not get lost.]

**(Donc) wo kama an ye nin baara nin ke, (pour que) ni baara ni mana ta jamana ko kan wu mana jembe nin folew ye wu ka lo hali bi ko farafina tagabolo bi Bobo Julaso kono yan.**

[(So), it is because of this that we do our work (so that) across the continent and for those that see us playing these djembes they know that up until this day African culture exists here in Bobo Dioulasso.]

**Wo ye ne ka, hakilina ta ye ka di dunye be ma.**

[This is my view, to share with the entire world.]

**N'anw dun y'an ka farafina bara bla ka ta farajela an ten a se ka ke farajew ye.** [If we abandon our African way of doing things and take on the ways of the West, we would never become whites.]

**Ne bi bobo, sector nimoro de (secteur numero deux) Jara Dugu. An ka lu le wu ba wele santre la kur (centre la cour)**

[I live in Bobo, (sector number 2), in the Diarra Dougou neighborhood. It's our house that we call (centre la cour\*.)]

*\*centre la cour- the class center (in French)*

**Wo ye Fransi fan fe law ye ani Ameriki fan fe law. Wu be anw ka yoro wele ko centre la cour.**

[This is from the French and Americans. They call our house "centre la cour."]

**(Mais) Bobo kin tonun wu b'an ka feye wele ko jembe du.**

[But the other neighborhoods call it, the djembe house.]

**Jembe kama ni balanw kama, mogow be bo yoro were cyaaman kana fo aw fe yen yiri koro.**

[For the djembe and the balaphone, people leave a lot to come to our place under the tree.]

**Minun yerew te foli ke, wu be folike minanw ta ka toka maga maga la. An ni mogo cyaaman be te taa.**

[Those who do not play, they keep themselves busy by playing a little with the instruments. We have tea with many people.]

**Mogo be bo Fransi, Almagne, Espagne, yorow be kana; kana lesanw ta, ka jembe ta, ka kur ta, ka be kalan anw fe yan.**

[People come from France, Germany, Spain, everywhere to come; They come to take lessons, to learn to play the djembe, take classes and to learn a lot of things with us here.]

**Anw fe yen a da yele len lo be lo ye.**

[Our home is open to everyone.]

**Mogo mogo bi juyen yorowo yoro ni be fe kana, ni nana Bobo Julaso kono ni'ba fe ka taa secter nimoro de la santre jembe la kur (á cote de l'ecole) Jara Dugu kerefe, ni sera wu be na nii ye anw fe yan.**

[All people no matter where in this world, if you want to come, if you arrive in Bobo Dioulasso, if you want to come to Sector number 2 "Djembe la cour" next to the Diarra Dougou school, if you come they will lead you right up to our house.]

**Ni nana anw fe yen I sera I fe yen.**

[If you come to us, you have come to your place.]

**Ni nana anw fe yen shi yoro beyen an be te wuli gnogon fe, an be foliw ke gnogon fe.**

[If you come to us, there is place to spend the night. We will make tea together. We'll make music together.]

**A be ba kelen, fa kelen. Salam Alekum.**

[We are all the same mother and same father. May peace be with you.]