

Dan Na Maye

Mahamadu Ibrahim interview **Kalangu (talking drum)**

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Ni Mahamadu Ibrahim nike. Daga Jahar Sokoto ni hito.

[Me, I'm Mahamadu Ibrahim. I come from the Sokoto Region (in Nigeria).]

Da, Gurumi* nike kidi, ina biyar Haruna Uje, Musa Gumal, ina kidin gurumi.

[Before, I was playing the gurumi* and I followed Haruna Uje, Musa Gumal, playing gurumi.]

***gurumi**- [two-string lute with a small calabash body. Another two-string lute, the *komsa*, has a larger body, and fuller sound.]

Ina kidin kalangu.

[I (now) play the kalangu.]

Daga baya sai na ga kalangu, na hi gane mai.

[After, I understood that the kalangu is easier (for me).]

Can Jahar Sokoto, akwai yan wasa masu zuwa nan Niger.

[In Sokoto, there were musicians that came from Niger.]

Sai suka yi ra'ayi, muka zo tare.

[They appreciated my way of working and they brought me with them.]

Na zo tare da maigidana, ga ya. Na zo nan.

[I came with my lead musician that sang. I came here.]

Ina ci, ina sha, ina sutura. Alhamdulillah tunda akwai iyali.

[I ate, I drank, I clothed myself. Thanks be to God, I have my family.]

Na gode ma Allah.

[I thank great God.]

Ni dai sai in ce Allah ya yi ambarka. Yaro biyu ne gare ni, guda ya zan babu amma akwai guda.

[I could say that I thank God. I had two children; one died and one is left.]

Da farka, ni na matsa mai ya yi. Ya shiga harakar makaranta.
[At first, I forced him to do it. He preferred school.]

Amma ban sani ba cikin kannaina ko wani abo ya shiga cikin zucciyarsu, su yi.
[I do not know of any among my brothers, cousins, one that is interested in it.]

Dan baya ba ta da kadan.
[(But) we never know.]

Yanzu ga maigidana, shine muke tare da shi.
[Now, here is my leader, I am with him.]

Akwai wani kuma can; da bai samu zuwa ba.
[There is another; he couldn't come.]

In dai an ga wanga, an gane ni.
[Mais des qu'on voit celui la, on me verra.]

Lalle, na zagaya Lagos, na zagaya Ilorin, na zagaya Abuja, Lakoja, Kaduna, nan, abinda ya dauko wajajen Zinder, Maradi, wajajen Tabalak Mai Ruwa, nan kauyen Filingue, kai birni da kauye.
[Surely, I traveled to Lagos , I traveled to Ilorin, I traveled to Abuja, Lakoja, Kaduna, and here to Zinder, Maradi all the way to Tabalak Mai Ruwa, Filingue, and other places.]

Wani lokaci ma ina kauye, in damana ta kama ni, sai in tsaya in yi aikin gona.
[Often when I am in the countryside, if it rains, I stop and head back to work the fields.]

In kaka ta yi, sai in dawo gari.
[After the harvest, I earn in the city.]

Inda na yi sana'a. In na samu in aje.
[I take up my work again. I save what I earn.]

In ban samu ba, ajiyar nan, dauke ta nike yi in yi da ita.
[If I earn nothing, I pull from my savings.]

Wallahi kidin kalangu, ban yi gadonshi ba, amma shi gurumi, shine mafarin shiga rokona.
[Truly, I did not inherit the kalangu, but playing the gurumi was the start that I had in the middle of griots.]

Ina kiyon shanu, sai wani bihillace, shina busar sharewa.

[I took the animals to pasture. I saw a Fulani herder that played the flute.]

Na yi, na yi in iya ta, ban iya ba,

[I tried to learn how to play this instrument. But I never came to learn.]

Ni kuma na so su iya, amma bas u iya ba.

[Me also, I wanted to learn the gurumi but I couldn't.]

Sai na ga ana buga kalangu, suna buga wannan gurumi

[I saw also those that played the kalangu and the gurumi.]

Sai na aje gurumi, na dauki kalangu, na ga ya hi sauki.

[I put down my gurumi and I took the kalangu. It was easier (for me).]

Yanzu gurumi babu shi saboda abinda ya sa babu shi saboda na dade ban yi shi ba. Sai na ga wanga ya hi sauki garan.

[Now (my) gurumi has disappeared ; It' been awhile without playing the gurumi.]

Akwai sanin take. Ka ga yanzu, taken Arewa daban, kowane gado da takenshi daban-daban ne.

[There is knowledge of the praises. There are praises for the Arewa and there are praises for the families, they are different.]

Da an jinjina, mutan ya sani.

[If we ?? the praises, they will know.]

Lalle ana yi, amma ni wanda na yi, na masu waka ne.

[Yes, we do them for the singers. Oui on en fait mais pour les chanteurs.]

Masu gurumi, na gamu da wanga mutanen Shata.

[That is where I ran into this man Shata.]

Ina kida mai, shina waka. Wadannan masu kidin yan mata.

[Me, I played and he, he sung. There are kalangu players for the girls.]

Kalangu ne amma akwai bambanci saboda su. Akwai kazagi da ake bugawa.

[The kalangu for the girls is different than the others. It is accompanied by a small drum the kazagi.]

Ana kidi, yan mata na raye-raye. Amma in muna yi, sai dai yarinya, kida mata.

We play and the girls dance. But when we play, we (also) do it for each girl.

Da ita da masoyinta su shigo hili, su taka rawa.

[She and her friend go in and dance.]

Masoyansu, su yi mu su korbe.

[The friends clap hands and repeat again the chorus of the song.]