

# Boubacar Souleyman

## Yeleyyooro

Yeleyyooro

Transcribed and translated to French by: Oumarou Issa

Translated to English by: Brian Nowak

*Chorus*

**Yeleyyooro\* yelleyyooro day.**

Yéleyyôro yelleyyôro

\*Yeleyyôro: This choral response is popular in Fulani songs. Sometimes sang as “Leliyoro” it is a compounded poetical form of “Heli,” and “Yooyo.” “Heli” means to break and “yooyo” is a cry-out following serious pain or misfortune – in terms of pain, it would be similar to “ouch”, but also used in the context of emotion or mental trauma as well. There is also a legend of an epic time where the Fulani lived in an ideal country of abundance but were forced out following a catastrophic event or misfortune. When they were leaving this land they cried out “yooyo, mi heli” meaning yooyo, I’m broken. We suppose that this choral response is something that remains in the collective memory of Fulani culture and could be the memory of a horrible event, or even a reference to a spiritual separation from the ideal to the human condition, similar to the story of the garden of Eden and serpent in Western religions.

<b>Kulen Allah, kaalen ngoonga day!</b>	Believe in God, speak the truth!
<b>Hano no Pullo waɗata ko leeɓa day, haaha.</b>	A Fulani man is likely to build excellence, haaha.
<b>Yeleyyooro yelleyyooro.</b>	Yéleyyôro yelleyyôro
<b>Uhuuuu!</b>	Ouhouhou!
<b>Yeleyyooro yelleyyooro day!</b>	Yéleyyôro yelleyyôro
<b>Hey kulen Allah, kaalen ngoonga koy!</b>	Believe in God, speak the truth!
<b>Hano no Pullo waɗata ko leeɓa day.</b>	A Fulani man is likely to build excellence, haaha.
<b>No Gurmanke waɗata ko leeɓa day.</b>	A Gourmance man is likely to build excellence, haaha.

**No Mawriijo\* wadata ko leeƙa day.**

A Mawri man is likely to build excellence, haaha.

*\*Mawriijo : The Mawri or Arewa are a sub-group of the Hausa that are easily recognized by their scars that run from the corner of their mouths to their ears. The Mawri and the Fulani practice a joking relationship where individuals can tease and even jokingly insult each other for fun with no repercussion.*

**Hano no Kaado\* wadata ko leeƙa day, haaha.**

A Songhai man is likely to build excellence, haaha.

*\*Kaado : Here, Kaado refers to the Songhai or Zarma. Depending on the context, Kaado designates any non-Fulani, or all communities living in the same place as the Fulani that do not speak Fulfulde or share the same culture.*

**Leleyyooro yelleyyooro.**

Yéleyyôro yelleyyôro

**Uhuuhu! Ahaaha!**

Ouhouhou ! Ahâhâ

**Yeleyyooro yelleyyooro day!**

Yéleyyôro yelleyyôro

**Hey kulen Allah, kaalen ngoonga koy!**

Believe in God, speak the truth!

**Ko wilwinndu jaayngel pooli day!**

The bat is the most contemptuous of winged creatures.

**Ko wilwinndu waawi ko tiidi koy!**

The bat is the specialist of acrobatics.

**Bilan koyde, juunnita hoore day, haaha!**

Hanging from legs and raising his head, haaha!

*Chorus*

**Yeleyyooro yelleyyooro.**

Yéleyyôro yelleyyôro.

**Ahaaha! Ahaaha! Ahaaha! Ahaaha!**

Ahâhâ ! Ahâhâ ! Ahâhâ ! Ahâhâ !

**Yeleyyooro yelleyyooro day.**

Yéleyyôro yelleyyôro.

**Hey kulen Allah, kaalen ngoonga koy!**

Believe in God, speak the truth!

**Hana no Pullo wadata ko leeƙa day.**

A Fulani man is likely to build excellence, haaha.

**No Kaado wadata ko leeƙa koy non, haaha.**

A Songhai man is likely to build excellence, haaha.

<b>O wii wilwinndu jaayngel pooli.</b>	The bat is the most contemptuous of winged creatures.
<b>Ahaaha! Ahaaha ! Ahaaha! Ahaaha!</b>	Ahâhâ ! Ahâhâ ! Ahâhâ ! Ahâhâ !
<b>Yeleyyooro yelleyyooro day.</b>	Yéleyyôro yelleyyôro,
<b>Hey kulen Allah, kaalen ngoonga koy.</b>	Believe in God, speak the truth!
<b>Hey kulen Allah, kaalen ngoonga koy!</b>	Believe in God, speak the truth!
<b>Hano no Pullo wadata ko leeĀa day.</b>	A Fulani man is likely to build excellence, haaha.
<b>No Gurmanke wadata ko leeĀa day.</b>	A Gourmance man is likely to build excellence, haaha.
<b>No Mawriiĵo wadata ko leeĀa day.</b>	A Mawri man is likely to build excellence, haaha.
<b>Hano no Kaado wadata ko leeĀa day, haaha.</b>	A Songhai man is likely to build excellence, haaha.
<b>Yeleyyooro yelleyyooro.</b>	Yéleyyôro yelleyyôro.
<b>Ko wilwinndu jaayngel pooli.</b>	The bat is the most contemptuous of winged creatures.
<b>Ko wilwinndu waawi ko tiidi koy!</b>	The bat is the specialist of acrobatics.
<b>Bilan koyde, juunnita hoore day, haaha!</b>	Hanging from legs and raising his head, haaha!
<b>Hey yeleyyooro yelleyyooro day. Ahaaha!</b>	Yéleyyôro yelleyyôro. Ahâhâ!