

# Boubacar Souleyman

## Interview in Songhai

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<b>Doono kaŋ ay te sohoŋ, dooni no kaŋ waato kaŋ borey ga lalabu.</b>	This song that I sang now, it's a song from when people had more decency.
<b>Alboro, ay ne alboro ize, da a to hiijay,</b>	A male, I say a young man, when he is ready to get married,
<b>A si hin ka ne ba nga beere se, "Beere, ay ga ba ay ma hiiji!"</b>	He could not even say to his older brother, "Big brother, I would like to get married."
<b>Zama "ay ga ba ay ma hiiji wo", wowi no!</b>	Because (saying) this "I would like to get married," it's an indecency!
<b>"Ay ga ba ay ma hiiji wo" wowi no, a si hima zanka ma a ci nga jine-boro se.</b>	(Saying) this "I would like to get married," it's an indecency, a child should not say that to his older brother.
<b>Ya-din mo no hondiyey, ngey mo da i di i bine-baako kaŋ i ga ba,</b>	The same as young women if they see someone that like them and that they like.
<b>Waati din kaŋ i koy kongu ceeciyon, kongu kaŋ i ga tengara kay wala kaŋ i ga lefo yon kay,</b>	Back then when they would go to look for palm-frond, palm-fronds that they could use to make a mat or winnowing pans.
<b>Da i koy no-din no i ga doonu ngey bine-baakey se, ngey jaadiyey se, ngey ce-diye se*.</b>	When they go there they can sing about their lovers, their companions, their followers. <i>*These three expressions are three gender-neutral ways of saying boyfriend/girlfriend or lover: bine-baakey- those my heart loves jaadiyey- from the Fulfulde meaning companion, or one that goes with me ce-direy- those that follow me.</i>

<b>Ka ti doono wo maanaa?</b>	What is the meaning of this song?
<b>Waato, arwasu nda hondiyo, i si kaa ka goro cere jere ya-cine wo.</b>	Back then, boys and girls, they would not come and sit next to each other like this.
<b>Da i na tengaraa daaru i se, ifa ga goro no tengaraa me ga, ifa ma goro tengaraa me ga ne-wo.</b>	If they lay down a mat for them, one of them will sit on one end, the other will sit on the other side here.
<b>Wo-din mo nangu kaŋ hondiya hayrayey ga diy'ey.</b>	Even that would be when the girl's parents could clearly see them.
<b>I manti hunkuna zaamaani zankey wo no, kaŋ yaŋ i ga tar ka di wayboro taafe!</b>	Because the kids here these days that are quick to get under a lady's skirt.
<b>A se no, waati kaŋ no i koy kongu kaayon no i ga doonu i wane bine-baakey se.</b>	That's why, when they would go to get palm-fronds, they would sing to their boyfriends.
<b>Wo ne ka ti ay dooni sintina din maanaa.</b>	That is the meaning of the first song that I sang.
<b>Alboro ize, da a to hiijay, a si ne, "hey Abba, ay ga ba ay ma hiiji"; mo-kogay no!</b>	A young man, if he is ready to get married, he will not say, "hey dad, I want to get married;" that's rude!
<b>A si ne, "Inna, ay ga ba ay ma hiiji."; mo-kogay no!</b>	If he says, "mother I would like to get married;" that's rude!
<b>A si ne a beere se, "ay to hiijay."; mo-kogay no!</b>	If he says to his brother, "I'm old enough for marriage;" that's rude!
<b>Da i koy fari, kumbo boŋ no baabo ga di kaŋ "lalle ay izo wo, a to ay ma a daŋ hu".</b>	When they go to the fields, it's with the capability of farm work that a father will see that looks like it's really time, he's ready, let me me put him in his own home.
<b>Wo ne ka ti ay dooni sintina din maanaa.</b>	That is the meaning of the first song that I sang.