

Nago Folktales From Bante

Titu Ashiri

How Secrets Are Leaked

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Ologbo mi alɔ ɛɛ. Evɔ ni alɔ eee.	My fathers, here is my story. The delightful story.
Abuo mi alɔ ɛɛ. Evɔ ni alɔ eee. [x2]	Here is my story my young brothers and sisters.
Ɛgbɔn mi alɔ ɛɛ. Evɔ ni alɔ eee. [x2]	My big brothers and sisters here is my story.
Palɔ ngbɔ.	I'm listening to you.
Hin ha hin. Alɔ. Hin ha hin, Hiriiiiiii ɛ.	Yes, yes, my story, yes yes, hiriiiiiii e.
Abuo mi, Alɔ.	My brother, my story.
Alɔ mi lɔ raaa mata mata, ɔta bɔba.	My story rolls and rolls and falls on a king
Ɔta nian, ɔta nian mɛta.	There are people, there are three people.
Ɔn wasi, ɔn wasi.	The live in the same area, they live in the same area.
Ɔjɔ nlɔ ɔjɔ nbɔ.	They had been there a long time.
Nɔ ni ohun koni nkankan eyi ohun gbessi fun ɔman hun lɔwɔ.	Then the king decided one day to make something for protection, to protect his children.
Nko jɛ nbashiri rɛ ɛ.	Something for protection.
Nɔn wasi nle lɔ ni Idumin*.	They were there one day and the king went to Idumin.

Ọ́lọ̀ ní iluyin ọ́lọ̀ kẹ̀ shẹ.	He was going there to get an amulet.
Nọ́n gbẹwá, iyo gbẹwá iyode.	Once he got (back) there, someone brought them to him.
Oni ọ́man nọ́n bíi afu bashiri aye ní.	He told his children that the amulet is to protect them from evil.
Ako tú nán ashiri ẹ̀ lode.	He told them that it is something to keep in secret.
Ashiri aye yẹ bó tú nán ashiri ẹ̀ otunán ashiri aye ara ẹ̀ ní.	It's a secret for life, he told them, if you tell people about it, it will harm you.
Ọ́n wasi, ọ́n wasi.	They live in the same area.
Ogú ọ́ọ́ọ́ npá nde edení.	Then suddenly conflict rose that caused deaths.
Ogú npá ló tán npá losin ní.	The conflict had taken away many people.
Iyó deẹ́ oni nọ́n bie ori bá shẹ gbá bá shẹ gbá ní.	Facing this situation, he indicated what needed to be done to his children.
Wá shẹ yẹ bẹ́, wá shẹ yẹ bẹ́.	You do like this, you do like this.
Nduoo oda bí ẹ̀kun wẹ́rẹ́ odabi ẹ̀kun. [x2]	Nduo had become like a lion, in no time, he became like a lion.
Bọ́ nán wọ́ ọ́tán asun gbalaja.	When he picks up his right hand, he conquers the enemy.
Bọ́ nán wọ́ osin asun gbalaja.	When he picks up his left hand, he conquers the enemy.
Refrain Nduoo oda bí ẹ̀kun wẹ́rẹ́ odabi ẹ̀kun. [x2]	Nduo had become like a lion, in no time, he became like a lion.
Bọ́ nán wọ́ ọ́tán asun gbalaja. [x2]	When he picks up his left hand, he conquers the enemy.
Ode ogbẹ́ nú yẹ ogbẹ́ fun.	After explaining he gave an amulet to conquer the enemy.

Ogu yin ode, gidigidi eyo fɔ bɛ yɛ.	Then a conflict arose, and he used the amulet to protect himself.
Titi ikɔ padirɛ lɔ bɛrɛrɛ.	This conflict killed the chickens but not people.
Titi ko gbe ɔwɔ ɔtan ɔkan ti de so.	Before he lifted up his right hand another conflict had happened.
Ope lomi in.	The new conflict had again destroyed things.
Nduoo oda bi ɛkun wɛrɛ odabi ɛkun. [x2]	Nduo had become like a lion, in no time, he became like a lion.
Bɔ nan wɔ ɔtan asun gbalaja	When he picks up his right hand, he conquers the enemy.
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Ode opa ogu yin rɛ gudu gudu.	With the help of the amulet, he had succeeded in conquering effectively.
Oni ogu kowa nlu tiwa gbo hun bɛ she gbo te unli ti bɛ hi.	Someone was asking him, to face conflicts what is it that you do?
Oni ashiri kan lo hun fun.	Then, he revealed that he was holding an amulet.
Ogbe ashiri ɛ ogbe fun aya kan	He entrusted his secret amulet to one of his wives.
Aya fa ashiri ɛ j ɛ nbɔ lapo.	His wife had held on the amulet with her.
Onlɔ logu lɛgɛ nko ri owo.	He had gone on an unsuccessful mission.

Ɔn ba lɔ bɛ dɛ titit kodeɛ,	They were there and before returning to their mission,
Aya kan ti gbɛ lomi oti gbɛ bɛ ndogo.	His wife had hidden his amulet in a bottle.
Nduoo oda bi ɛkun wɛrɛ odabi ɛkun. [x2]	Nduo had become like a lion, in no time, he became like a lion.
Bɔ nan wɔ ɔtan asun gbalaja	When he picks up his right hand, he conquers the enemy.
Bɔ nan wɔ osin asun gba la ja.	When he picks up his left hand, he conquers the enemy.
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Bɔ nan wɔ ɔtan asun gbalaja	When he picks up his right hand, he conquers the enemy.
Bɔ nan wɔ osin asun gba la ja.	When he picks up his left hand, he conquers the enemy.
Ogu opa yan hun.	The conflict arose and killed people.
Otu ashiri bɛɛ fun aya ɛ, aya ɛ tu ashiri ɛ lode	He told his big secret to his wife who had told everything.
Ihun komu si lapo ɛ	The secret had been shared.
Aya ɛ tu ashiri ɛ lode gidigidi ogu ba wɔ nbɛ lomu.	Since his wife had given away the secret and spoiled the amulet a conflict had killed all of them.
Ɔba yɛ kan lo ti ata pa ati balɛ* Oke Aladi ɛ.	My story has happened between a king, his kingdom and an emissary of the kingdom who lives in Oke Aladi. <i>Often fictive people and villages are used yet identified to creat a realistic sense to the story.</i> <i>*Bale – An emissary, or someone that represents the king in remote areas of the kingdom.</i>
Otu ashiri bɛ fun aya po komu si lapo ɛ, otu ashiri ɛ fun aya.	Instead of seriously guarding his secret, he shared his secret with his wife.

Ndi ε, bi ε ni aya ko n tu ashiri ani fun aya.

The lesson of the story is that when we marry, one should not share secrets with women because they cannot keep secrets.

Amu ashiri ε du bo ode ni la koto.

Secrets should be seriously guarded and sealed in a calabash.

Ndi ab mi nin bo dun ko dun.

Voilà la source de mon conte.