

Nago Folktales From Bante

ᏊᏊᏊ Inu

Knowing

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Ma kəkə she komedi, ɛgbə.	I will do something funny first, listen to me.
Alə mi ɔmu kunrin ni ati bəba ɛ.	My story is about a boy and his father.
Aya kə bəbaɛ.	His father was divorced.
Iyo de an əl li ju.	The child had went in the bush.
Ina ɛ ti lə, ɔ man wə ati bəbaɛ. [x2]	The other had already left, the child lived with his father.
Ose nje fu baba.	The child cooked for his father.
O nje je je nje po i.	The father ate with pleasure.
ɔman ɛ de l'Oke Ibua*, baba wa ninu ile.	The child went to Oke Ibua, the father was at the house. <i>* Oke Ibua – A village a few kilometers from the Bante.</i>
Inu le b ɛ nu wa tori awən koni ile meji.	They lived together in the house and there was only one room.
ɔn wa bɛɛ, ɔn sawa ninu wa hala.	They were there, they were together in the house with difficulties.
Ke a kojɛ loni, ke a kojɛ ləla?	And they asked what they would eat today, what will we eat tomorrow.?
Hun dɛ wa bɛ hun ke ati bəbaɛ.	The child was whining to his father.
Ojɛ ɔnmu ɛ eyi npe ni ɔmu fe, e ndi ɛ to ibe.	And the child that we speak of was very small.

Ido ɔmɔe si ni, ɔmɔn ɛ ti lokiti.	He was a teenager, and all of a sudden he would get lazy.
Oni to bɛ wo i to baba.	The child noticed that the father was doing nothing but looking at him.
Aya kɔ loti kɔ baba loti lɔii.	That was the reason the father was divorced.
Baba wa ninun le, baba ajoko nbɛ ti.	The father often stayed at home, the father almost always sitting down.
Bi ɔmɔn ɛ kebu a baba ɛ kosun ika I si nule nbɛ	Every time the child returned from his coming and goings, he came to find his father laying down.
ጋጋጋጋ kɔ bɔ ade.	The child found him in the same position.
Oni kilode ti baba mi nwo mi to b ɛ i.	The child asked why his father was looking at him so much.
Baba m bɛ wo gba i kɔrɔ mi laa.	If my father looks at me this way, it doesn't make me happy.
Kɔ jɛ ma bi baba mi labɔ.	I will finish this by asking why he looks at me.
Ode leke loke Ibua, ɔlɔ loke ibua ode bɔ ade	He went to Oke Ibua, then he returned.
ጋጋጋጋ ɛ oni baba o beyin ke she ni?	He said, my father what are you doing there like that?
Oni nshrɪi.	The father responded with a movement of his lips.
Baba shanu bɛ, amɔn akɔ mɔn ihunye baba nfo.	The father's movement of his lips was not understood.
Oni kelo de ɛ wo mi to bɛ, beyin ke nshe yi.	The child asked again, father why do you look at me so much?
Oni beyin ke she ni?	He said, my father what are you doing like that?

Oni hin. ɔmɔn ɛ ɔbɔ guda ɔwalɔ.	The father responded with a movement of his lips and the child then pulled away.
Ꮚwa lɔ lo shɛ rin.	The child pulled back and the father sang a song.
Eh, dundun ikɔ jɛ. [x2]	Who finds what is sweet and doesn't eat it?
Agban nan.	One wonders.
Moni npe jo fɛ.	I want to kill a snake. <i>This is reference to finding a good piece of meat, not to be confused with s the Nago's neighbors, the Fon and Mahi, who have a snake spirit.</i>
Agban nan.	One wonders.
Ejo shu bu shaki.	The snake fell into the trap.
Agban nan.	One wonders.
Eh, dundun ikɔ jɛ.	Who finds what is sweet and doesn't eat it?
Agban nan.	One wonders.
Bɛ si afu she ye?	How to arrange this situation?
Agban nan.	One wonders.
Afɔ fu kogbɔ	We told him but he did not listen to us.
Agban nan.	One wonders.
Bɛ ma ko she ye?	How to arrange this situation?
Agban nan.	One wonders.
ɛyin ologbo ɛgbami.	You my elders, fly to my rescue.
Agban nan.	One wonders.
Eh, dundun ikɔ jɛ.	Who finds what is sweet and doesn't eat it?

Agban nan.	One wonders.
Nde de afጋ mi wa nkጋ ma fጋ.	That which is hard to say can be said in a song.
Nje ጋገጋጋ lika fጋ, baba ጸma binጋጋ.	So, this is how we have said it, father do not get angry.
ጸwa lጋ wa nnu arጋ, otitጋ nfe nkጋ je nu yin.	The lie created trouble, so may the truth save us.
Omi ho loni ohun ko na ya.	He breathed heavily and said, I should get married.
ጋጋጋ nle Ademulu, ጋጋጋ ጋ nle yi papa ni	He had asked Ademulu's daughter from our area.
Oni ohun koni ጋጋጋ Ademulu, ጋጋጋ.	He decided to marry the king Ademulu's daughter.
Wa koni ጋጋጋ ጋba a, oni ohun koni.	You are going to marry the king's daughter? He said he would marry her.
Omoni hun koli ahun pera hun ጋጋ.	People went then and decided to get together to arrange this.
Baba ገጋጋ afጋ ye olohun k ጋ.	The message was well understood by the father, but he said that he was unaware.
ጋba ohun ke koni ጋጋጋ ohun.	The king was not against this marriage.
Oni bolugbo wu, aman hun kokጋ beni ashe dada fun ጋጋጋ baba.	The king said that he should bring up the age different in this marriage of daughter.
ጸni eyi gboju koko ገጋጋ jukoni ጋጋጋ bጋ ba ye.	The one who can be courageous and determined to marry the king's daughter.
Afu nkጋ wa lebi, nko ke ka ngba fu baba ጸ.	The one who will marry the king's daughter should pass a test that consists of climbing a fruit tree and staying there to collect fruits for the girl's father.

Wa du ro loshe be wanikoshe, oni owun koshe.	If you don't pass this test you lose the marriage, he said he will do it.
Ꮚmu Ꮚba lani anfo i fo, oni ohun koshe.	We are talking about the king's daughter, so he will do it.
Ogidan ni ohun koni.	The turtle said that he would marry her.
Oni akani, oni ohun koni.	People were saying that it could not marry the daughter, but the turtle insisted that it would marry the girl.
Wa lo wa wowo apo ᏊᏊu me hu lojuese non sisan, won san wo ye.	They asked the turtle to bring 500.000cfa, the amount asked was to be paid immediately.
Ꮚn ni ko guke ka ngba.	They asked him then to climb the tree to collect the fruits.
Leho egi kaje hun, kamu, fu ᏊᏊ kan kan meje.	On the tree, one does not eat or drink for 7 days.
Oni ᏊᏊ meje ni koshe leri egi kofu nka agba yin.	They said that during the 7 days that the turtle should stay there without eating or drinking and will be collecting fruits.
Ogidan ni owun koshe.	The turtle said that he would do it.
Ogidan wa ni fo bokoni koshe fo fu mi fo	They told him, if he did not succeed the test.
Ohun de e hun lo, on de be.	They went to the place.
Ꮚn de be non ba ogidan, ofe ke gba efere olunue.	The turtle was already at the foot of the tree, and made a small tunnel inside.
Ogidan de idi igi igba ugu igi gba e.	When he arrived at the foot of the tree the turtle climbed and then sang this.
Fee kun f e kun lan de.	Vocables referring to the test that needed to be passed
F e kun lan de.	Vocables.

Egi igba lande.	We should go ourselves to the foot of the fruit tree.
Fε ε kun lan de.	Vocables.
ɔjɔ meje lan de.	In 7 days we'll come back.
Fε ε kun lan de.	Vocables.
Oshu pa meta lan de.	In 3 months we'll come back.
Fε ε kun lan de.	Vocables.
Fe egi igba lande.	We should go ourselves to the foot of the fruit tree.
Fε ε kun lan de.	Vocables.
Ogun gba lɔ dede, ogbe ngba ε kika, nika vla vla.	He climbed the fruit tree and put himself to work collecting the fruits.
Ahun koko timu pe ka shɔjɔ meje.	The turtle knew that it had not been 7 days.
Koda lε ohun koni ɔmɔn bale wa.	It knew that before 7 days, he would descend to marry the king's daughter.
ɔjɔ ekeni walɔ ɔmɔn yε kun rin.	The first day passed by, this child (the turtle sang.
Ekeji walɔ, eketa walɔ, ekerin de.	2 days, 3 days, and the 4 th day.
Koma toju εke ru ε ɔmu ε omu dani hun.	Until the 5 th day this child stuck to his deal.
Ase lakoko ye darin ε fee, ibi nbε fee ibε fee nmoyin bε.	When the child (the turtle) sang he sucked out the honey in the tunnel.
Oyin eyi mɔn yin lε mi ε fu pɔ libε.	The honey that he sucked out helped him to stay up high in the tree.
Fεε kun fε kun lan de.	Vocables
Fε ε kun lan de.	Vocables.

Egi igba lande.	We should go ourselves to the foot of the fruit tree.
Fε ε kun lan de.	Vocables.
ጋጋጋ meje lan de.	In 7 days, we'll come back.
Fε ε kun lan de.	Vocables.
Oshu pa meta lan de.	In 3 months, we'll come back.
Fε ε kun lan de.	Vocables.
Ogbe omu be, ጋጋጋ meje ε wa pe.	He continued to sing sucking the honey until the 7 th day.
ጋጋጋ meje ጋጋጋ da fun n εገገጋ obirin.	It was 7 days for the test that they set, and they had passed.
ጋጋጋ gbe yawo ጋጋጋ ogidan, ogidan gbaa ogbe lile.	Then, the wife was given to the turtle as planned and the turtle brought his wife back to his home.
Ibe lode ε lode ε ni ogidan li ko gbe ጋጋጋ ε kofi she εhin fowun.	Once at the home, the turtle asked the wife to scratch his back.
Loni bisi moni ekan, ekan iye εshe εhin jaku ጋጋጋ ye.	The wife said that she did not have the nails to be able to scratch the shell.
Oni ጋ, iwo ጋጋጋ wo ini ka fo fu enian ni fe ጋጋጋ wa leri igi fu ጋጋጋ meje ጋጋጋ shubu?	Surprised the turtle said, have you already seen someone that spends 7 days in the tree without eating that does not fall.
Iwo ጋጋጋ wa she minin	And now you refuse what I ask you to do.
Nidi ε ni awa ጋጋጋ isin yin hun ጋጋጋጋጋ fo nu fu aya.	That is why our youth today should never give secrets to our wives.
Bo je afu nu fu ጋጋጋ wa hala nije lola foo.	If we give our secrets to our wives, it will create difficulties in the future.
Idi alu mi nin, ጋጋጋጋጋ lafi ጋጋጋ.	That is the basis of my story, it serves a lesson for life.

Fεε kun fε kun lan de.	Vocables.
Fε ε kun lan de.	Vocables.
Egi igba lande	We should go ourselves to the foot of the fruit tree.
Fε ε kun lan de.	Vocables.
ᏊᏊ meje lan de.	In 7 days, we'll come back.
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