

Volta

...na yisakagi a tula gbani na...

Kintso yigidi, mampa dambo, woni efo,
 Egwa nna wolatomi na, epa mi a ze
 Nakan mia ma sansan, chi fe kun
 Ganfi nya lembu
 Be nya azurufa na wo zefi
 Edu nya eziko na, nwu la eye mia na.
 Babo le-mima kpe ke ayi zi bon a-emizhi a
 Kpa zibo, gbara-gbara
 Nya ezhiko ndochi
 Nwu jin iri na we yesa na

Ya zan da ba kpata misun o. Be yesi a na e
 Eya nuwan nya kpatachi zi ajin shiri a na
 Mato zi e nwa dozi gun, fitila egungi a seba
 Ez i kpata a sansan
 Masoyi zi a egwa zi fin, gbarufu zi ma e ze za
 Nna zi, nda zi to egizi e mu alewa yeko
 Ndanusa zi a bichi zi ta kpe teburu o echin alamari zi le
 Pati ziko zi e sobe,
 Ke dabba nazi de yeda na.

Yigidi yisakagi a rikpe pati
 Egwa chigban we gba nya mi, ke mima chinle na
 Ke nyizagi dazan ba kapa mi bo
 Be e shin da e, e yagwa ba kapa mi bo be eye bini nuwan ebi che yi etsan
 ma na
 Mi a wo fin, asike dzu-dzu, ke ege na, ke a niyan na
 Ke eza eza payin zi fin we eya kama nazi gogan na

Ezi pin chi, sunnau yi *Elefthenia*
 Be alama nya etin zi i, aze eyewe na
 Be lokachi gbanin na na asike be ebo nwu
 Zeu fi fusika o, ke jewafi ko eni na o na

Nyau yi ke yekozan da zapayin ẓi naba kpata misun o na
Ke eyanzhi togandzo fitila na, che go fi eye ninbo
Nya u ke ẓe yi daman a dau ke a yanyan na

Lozun, masoyi, bayele eya kama
Bere mana, bologi ke nyizagi nna na
Kila alamari we chi a panin fimi nyagban bo a nya o
Eẓiko nna, to zana ẓi fibo na
Tsutsua egba yiẓe kpata
Mia ẓe wuẓi we, kpataki o tso eza kimmi we
Ebo nunwo nya we bo, mia wo fin kpata
Nasan we a man bandondo keẓe, ke a lugigwa na.

Richard Berengarten

Ẓi-ẓe lo nya / translated by Baba Akote

A note on Nupe pronunciation and orthography

The following diacritics are used in this text

ş is pronounced *sh*, approximately as in English *ship* or *sheep*.

ẓ is pronounced approximately as the English *rouge* or French *je*.

Unfortunately, intonation, pitch and stress are not easily reproducible.

B.A

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