

tò mbòṅgá¹

tale bongo

The bongo story

1) dùṅú òṅ wílí nè dóká kóé.

sit-PAST certain man PREP many wife

'There once was a man who had many wives.

2) wâ dùṅù ndán bél dóká béṅ.

3p remain-PAST one give.birth many child

They had many children (lit. They were one, and bore many children).

3) kè hàà á òṅ tám mgbáχ

then arrive-PAST LOC certain time real

Then there came a real time of famine

ṅóṅàmò mé dàl nè ébéṅ ndòkò zíná.

eat-NOM-thing CONJ raise INST PL-child DEM:PL EXIST-NEG

and food for raising those children did not exist.

4) wò má lè hòlò wâ.

hunger CON enter PREP 3p

Hunger came among them.

5) mò kà ékóé ndòkí tà dé zíná.

thing REL PL-wife DEM:PL FUT do EXIST:NEG

The thing that these wives could do did not exist.

¹ Text transcribed phonetically.

6) wílí kè má ɲèɲ nò.
man DEM CON walk walk
This man went walking a walk.

7) kè òɲ sóé wènè má làχ né kpá mbòɲgá.
then one day 3s CON leave go find bongo
then one day he left and went to find a bongo.

8) wènè gbèà mbòɲgá kí.
3s kill-PAST bongo DEM
He killed that bongo.

9) kpòó mbòɲgá kè wâ má ɲòɲ.
meat bongo DEM 3p CON eat
This bongo meat, they ate.

10) àsê à dèà bé zím mbòɲgá kè.
CONJ 3sTOP do-PAST little taboo bongo DEM
But, he put a small taboo on this bongo meat (i.e. he reserved a portion for himself alone).

11) kà mà kára, òɲ kóé nèà nè ɓérkíɗi
when PROC? later, certain wife come-PAST CONJ break
After a time, one of the wives went and cut off

kpòó mbòɲgá kè ɲòɲ.
meat bongo DEM eat
some of this bongo meat and ate it.

12) **é** **ḡ** **ndé** **ná** **gùlá** **vè.**
LOG say COMP COP co.wife LOG:POSS

(She said to herself that) one will say that it was one of her co-wives (who did it).

13) **ḡ** **kóé** **nèà** **hórò** **nè** **ḡérkìdì** **kpòó**
another wife come-PAST again CONJ break meat

Another wife also went and cut off some of this bongo meat

mbḡḡá **kè** **ḡḡ.**
bongo DEM eat

and ate it.

14) **é** **ḡ** **ndé** **ná** **gùlá** **vè.**
LOG say COMP COP co.wife LOG:POSS

(She said to herself that) one will say that it was one of her co-wives (who did it).

15) **kàḡ** **dám** **ékóé** **ndḡḡ** **fét.**
like.that complete PL-wife DEM:PL all

Like that completes all of those wives.

16) **wílí** **dùḡ.**
man sit-PAST

The man was.

17) **kà** **wènè** **mà** **néà** **mé** **nà** **nzḡ** **kpòó**
when 3s ? come-PAST CONJ FOC see meat

When he went to see the bongo meat,

mbḡḡá, **à** **kpàà** **ndé** **kpòó** **ḡḡà** **séḡ.**
bongo 3sTOP find-PAST COMP meat remain-PAST little

he found that little remained.

18) **kà wènè áχ, yí fèt ná sǐ káfè.**
when 3s ask people all FOC marry denial
When he asked about it, The people all denied (doing it).

19) **wâ má kàl màì láχ né á ìi wèè.**
3p CON gather together leave go PREP water fire
They gathered together (and) left going to the fire river.

20) **wíli kè ndé, yí kà kú ìi,**
man DEM COMP people REL traverse water
This man said that the people who cross the water (and)

ìi híχ wènè ná, ngì ndé zíná wènè
water burn 3s NEG DEM_{pr} COMP EXIST:NEG 3s
the water does not burn them, it is not them

ńón kpòó mbòngá kè ná.
eat meat *bongo* DEM NEG
that ate this bongo meat.

21) **hà né kí, kùtíí kóé**
arrive-PAST:NOM PREP DEM first wife
Arriving there, the first wife

ḍèà nú á gìmà
abandon-PAST mouth LOC song
opened her mouth and sang a song:

22) mbòṅga é mbòṅgá wí.lí b̀ṅ é mbòṅgá
bongo EXCL bongo man 1sPOSS EXCL bongo
Bongo, Oh bongo, my husband, oh bongo

é mbòṅgá mbòṅgá
EXCL bongo bongo
Oh bongo, bongo

mí má ṅ́ṅá s̀l̀ mbòṅgá .lí k̀ gbé mí
1s PROC? eat-PAST liver bongo water DEM kill 1s
If I ate the bongo liver, this water will kill me

mbòṅgá mbòṅgá
bongo bongo
Bongo, bongo

23) mbòṅga é mbòṅgá wí.lí b̀ṅ é mbòṅgá
bongo EXCL bongo man 1sPOSS EXCL bongo
Bongo, Oh bongo, my husband, oh bongo

é mbòṅgá mbòṅgá
EXCL bongo bongo
Oh bongo, bongo

mí má ṅ́ṅá s̀l̀ mbòṅgá .lí k̀ gbé mí
1s PROC? eat-PAST liver bongo water DEM kill 1s
If I ate the bongo liver, this water will kill me

mbòṅgá mbòṅgá
bongo bongo
Bongo, bongo

24) òṅ kóé má tè mbér ndán ġimà kú ġi.
another wife CON come sing same song traverse water.
Another wife came sang the same song and traversed the water.

25) òṅ hórò má tè.
another again CON come
Another one also came.

26) kà wènè 66 ndé é mbér ġimà,
when 3s say COMP LOG sing song
When she said that she would sing

ġér ná sífí m̀d nè kùá.
throat FOC tighten thing PREP tears
the song, ther throat tightened with tears.

27) kà wènè 66 ndé é ǵé náná á ġi,
when 3s say COMP LOG abandon foot PREP water
When she said that she would put her foot in the water,

fólà zíná.
means EXIST:NEG
means did not exist.

28) ġi ná d̀à náná nè ǵán.
water FOC burn-PAST foot 3sPOSS:inalien too.much
The water burned her feet badly.

29) **kà wènè mà nɛ̀à á hò á sɛ̀ndé**
 when 3s SIM? go-PAST PREP arrive PREP middle
When she went to arrive in the middle of the water,

lí, lí má hĩkí tɛ̀ nè ɗáŋ.
 water water CON scald body 3sPOSS:inalien too.much
the water scalded her body badly.

30) **gĩmà kà wènè mbér yí nzél ná.**
 song REL 3s sing people hear NEG
The song that she sang, nobody heard.

31) **kàgó fɛ̀ nè á zǎŋ lí.**
 like.that die 3s PREP bowels water
Like that died she in the middle of the water.

32) **ndé mé wílí kà mɛ̀ ɓó ndé**
 COMP 2s man if 2s say COMP
Now, you, man if you say that

sí kóé, mɛ̀ sí ndáŋ, vàχ.
 marry wife 2s marry one two
you (will) marry a wife, marry one or two.

33) **á kàlà nè ɗóká kɛ̀, wâ kár mà**
 CONJ gather-PAST PREP many DEM:PN 3p ast PROC?
But if you gather many wives, they (will) keep on (doing)

ɗɛ̀à mĩsó mò á zàŋ tũ̀à, á wâ
 do-PAST strange thing PREP bowels house PURP 3p
strange things in your house for they

kéχ **mé** **gòn** **yéré** **ǔé** **á** **énú**
search CONJ cut lie abandon PREP PL-mouth
search to tell lies and not abandoning the ways (lit. mouth)

béη **ná.**
child NEG
of children.

34)ndé **nzégĩlí** **tò** **bòη** **gó** **è.**
COMP finish tale 1sPOSS:alien like.that. EXCL
That is the end of my tale!

35)tò **mè** **è.**
tale 2sPOSS:alien EXCL.
Your tale!