

Hospitality

Transcript in Twi:

Baaba (on right) Pennante (on left)

Baaba: Ghanaians nso, everyday biara ɔmo ka sɛ, “Oh, ɔmo yɛ hospitable” na do you find that to be true sɛ Ghana...

Pennante: Yeah, ɔmo gyidi sɛ obiara yɛ ne nua, not based on the fact sɛ you're part of the family or not so long as you're a Ghanaian, wherever I meet you no, ɔmo boaboa ɔmo ho, ɔmo boaboa ɔmo ho.

Baaba: Do you think that's a good thing?

Pennante: Yeah, I think it's ok maybe because I'm a Ghanaian, I think it's ok.

Baaba: Nti it works out... Because wokɔ abrokyire saa no a, ɛnhyɛ da ara nte saa. Most... Everybody thinks about himself or herself.

Pennante: Each one for himself, God for us all.

Baaba: Ebimo ka sɛ maybe that's why they've progressed because obia ɛstruggle sɛ ɔbɛyɛ yie and so they progress. Ɛwɔ ha no... Meanwhile, ɛha no, some people depend on others and don't try themselves all the time. Nti do you think that is true or...?

Pennante: It's true. Aane, ɛwo ho, it exists pa ara.

Baaba: Enti do you think it would be better sɛ Ghana ha nso yɛye each man for himself anaa?

Pennante: Daabi, daabi. Ɛyɛ sa ara a, yɛbɛbrɛ. Ye mu bi bɛbrɛ because nyɛ debi ara na wobɛnya nie... Like, wobehia biribi na sɛ wonyi bi a..., yes, wobɛyɛ dɛn anya saa adɛɛ no? Gyɛsɛ wo bisa. Wobisa nso a, yɛbeboa wo nti why not ask? Na ɔno nso ohia biribi a, ɔbɛba abɛbisa wo.

Baaba: Nti it works out that way.

Pennante: You can't, you can't consider yourself only, you have to consider other people, because we're united, Ghanaians, yeah, saa na yɛtɛɛ.

Baaba: Wohwe a, Ghanaians ɔmo yɛ united than most countries anaa?

Pennante: I think so.

Baaba: Adɛn na woreka saa?

Pennante: United in the sense sɛ yɛboa yɛ ho, yɛboaboa yɛ ho. Yɛhia biribi a yɛboaboa yɛ ho.

Baaba: Te sɛ wo nam kwan ho na obi hia biribi, bi a na wonnim no but wobetumi aboa no. That would help a lot.

Pennante: Yeah.

English Translation:

Baaba: People are always commenting that Ghanaians are hospitable. Do you find that to be true?

Pennante: Yeah, it's because they believe that everyone is their brother or sister, not based on the fact that you're part of the family or not -- so long as you're a Ghanaian. Wherever I meet you, they help each other.

Baaba: Do you think that's a good thing?

Pennante: Yeah, I think it's okay. Maybe because I'm a Ghanaian, I think it's okay.

Baaba: So it works out . . . Because when you go outside Ghana, it's usually not like that. Most . . . Everybody thinks about himself or herself.

Pennante: Each one for himself, God for us all.

Baaba: Some say maybe that's why they've progressed, because everyone struggles to succeed, and so they progress. Meanwhile, here, some people depend on others and don't try themselves all the time. Do you think that is true or . . . ?

Pennante: It's true. Yes, it really exists.

Baaba: So, do you think it would be better to also do "each man for himself" here in Ghana?

Pennante: No, no. We would suffer if we did that. Some of us would suffer because it's not everyday that you would get what . . . Like, you'll need something and if you can't find it . . . yes, how would you get it? You have to ask. And if you asked, you'll be helped, so why not ask? And whoever helps you will come ask you if s/he needs something, too.

Baaba: So it works out that way.

Pennante: You can't, you can't consider yourself only, you have to consider other people, because we're united. Ghanaians, yeah, that's how it is.

Baaba: Do you consider Ghanaians more united than most countries are?

Pennante: I think so.

Baaba: Why do you say that?

Pennante: We're united in the sense that we help one another. When someone is in need we help him/her.

Baaba: So, for example, if you're walking by the roadside, and someone needs something, you would help even though you don't know him/her. That would help a lot.

Pennante: Yeah.

About CultureTalk: CultureTalk is produced by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages and housed on the LangMedia Website. The project provides students of language and culture with samples of people talking about their lives in the languages they use everyday. The participants in CultureTalk interviews and discussions are of many different ages and walks of life. They are free to express themselves as they wish. The ideas and opinions presented here are those of the participants. Inclusion in CultureTalk does not represent endorsement of these ideas or opinions by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages, Five Colleges, Incorporated., or any of its member institutions: Amherst College, Hampshire College, Mount Holyoke College, Smith College and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

© 2003-2008 [Five College Center for the Study of World Languages](#) and [Five Colleges, Incorporated](#)