

Sabar - Drums

Wolof transcript:

Talla: Li neu niouy wakh ay sabar. Sabar neuk souniou tradition leu. Bou lirr bi ndioudo beu ame joorom nietti fan, veille bi leu nouy indi sabaar yi pour sabarou, wan nieup ne len soubeu deu nouy toudou seu niou dom. *Donc* li, mom moy sabaar bii ngen ko nguise. Li, mom moy ndeunde, mome leu niouy wakh djembe. Toubab yi djembe len ko ngueuneu kham. Mais nioun li, sou niou tradition, ndeudeu nioun key wakh. Ndeunde mome moy li ngueu khamne, mom leu sou niou mame yi don yeg le bou feke ame neu lou khew. Ndeunde moy li ngeu khamne mom leu sou niou mame yi don *lancer message* bou feke am neu lou xew. Nioun neuk, donc lou sou niou mame yi dom deff, lol leu nouy *continuer* di deff beu legui. Mo takh niou fonk keu ko. Lepp lou niou xew le, bou mbeke, mome di negn ko fareul di utiliser akh di tchi banekho.

Man: ...Grand Tambour Major de Diourbel. Mane may pape Barra Mbaye mi di teugg *programme* bi. Sabar, li ko taxeu diok, kou am diom...kou am diom mo ndan oot ay ndeunde, dakh sabar dem neu beu ci lamb, dem neu beu ci santane so beugue goor ni sawaar. Ko khamne ki ya ngui wara nellow tchi tol, bou niou doore ay ndeunde, bak leu, seu yaram ndow, seu diom toucher leu, seu yaram ndiegou...

Sabar, li ko taxeu diok deu feu bari dakh, nit di neu teugg ngente, di neu teugg guet, di neu teugg diong ci bou dieuk; bou dieuk, sabo ken rer neu...deu niouye fop ndeunde jiñ ko, sou ko deffe ñu daje fa, xamne bi am neu kou dem, nou di ko teugueuli ndeuneu. Kou mouss di dougou negou gorr, douñ ley teugueuli ndeunde. So deme tchi tolou santane yi, ay ndeunde tchi boppom moy toucher goor, djom bi gueuneu taxaw, mou gueuneu am dole, gueuneu am djom. Bou khale mousse djioudou, ndeunde leu nouy teugueu, ndeunde mbey djitou, khaley toppeu ko...Ndeunde dal li ko takheu djog barri neu.

**Italics indicate French*

English translation:

Talla: This is what we call *sabar* (drums). Sabar is part of our tradition. When the newborn is 8 days old, on the eve of his/her naming ceremony, we bring in the sabar to drum and to tell everybody that tomorrow we will be naming our child. So, as you can see, this is sabar. It is the '*ndeunde*', commonly known as '*Djembe*'. Europeans call it '*Djembe*'. But for us, in our tradition, we call it '*ndeunde*'. '*Ndeunde*' is what our ancestors used to use to transmit messages if something happened. So what our ancestors used to do is what we perpetuate, and that's why we are fond of it. Sabar takes place for any special celebration, for any joyful occasion.

Man: ...Drum-major of Diourbel. I am Bara Mbaye's father, the one who is coordinating the event. The reason why sabar drumming exists is...someone who had a lot of dignity would take drums...because sabar drumming is played for wrestling matches, it is used to

praise people, to give strength and power to the man. If you are about to go on the battlefield, sabar is drummed to empower and dignify you.

There are many reasons why sabar drumming is used. It is used during baby naming ceremonies, and in the past it was used during circumcisions. Whenever someone passes away, we play the drums to announce his death. Hence, everybody comes together to acknowledge his passing away and to listen to the drums being played for him. Sabar is also played for the man's initiation. If you are sent to the devil's field, sabar drumming is used to give you more dignity and more strength. When there is a birth in the family, Sabar is drummed. Sabar drumming is used to celebrate a lot of events.

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