

ampərə n tsi a tu ri dulipa kibere na kibəri na kabəsapı.
1.SG.story 1.SG.SUBJ go INF TAM trap life POSS.people and POSS.animals and POSS.birds
My story left to trap the people, animals and birds of the world

doodoodou na gəlima gudəŋ gə kada, n uto a jide halı bəɟa buriu
olden.times FOC drought one AGR uncover and rain AGR stop until years three
It was in the olden times that there was a drought, and the rain stopped for three years

n abulo, ato, itufjine, agbangima, atobəmbəno, n ɔkə i mər kpataa.
and waterholes, creeks, streams, lakes, rivers and wells AGR dry.up? completely?
And the waterholes, creeks, streams, lakes, rivers and wells were all dry

bərə, ɔbəri bəsapı bə ti ɟi atukəmo
people animals birds AGR IMPF? die thirst?
People, animals and birds were dying of thirst

na gatina kagəjari a kəl a wala samaa aŋunii.
and land POSS.high.king AGR drum INF bring.together gathering? all
And the king of the earth drummed to bring everyone together

gadza ga tí lə waa ga kəda ma,
morning? AGR TAM say that AGR wake.up SUB
When morning was going to announce itself (before dawn),

gəja əgəkukonu gəde gə rŋə na samaa,
king 3.SG.POSS.court? AGR.DEM.FAR AGR fill with gathering?
the king's entryways was filled with people

gɔwəlɔ na ŋkəmpərə ide toŋo
discussion and noise DEM.FAR carry
They brought discussion and noise

ɪ pɪ a tu ɟim gəja a doo əgəkukonu
it come INF TAM ??? king AGR go.out 3.SG.POSS.court?
Until the moment when the king came out of his house

na gɔwəlɔ na ŋkəmpərə iŋunii ɪ ŋərə kərəmm,
and discussion and noise all AGR be.quiet ???
and the discussion and noise was completely silenced

udəŋ k a kə na kəl na
one NEG 3.SG.SUBJ TAM IMPF cough NEG
No-one coughed again.

na gəja a ɟam galei na lə waa:
and king AGR hold word and say that
And the king took the floor and said:

"i səm gu jɛɛ ɔpɔnɟa na a gi ŋə buto a fərə n atəgəlɔ
it be.necessary 1.PL.SUBJ search path and INF? we see water INF rescue with 1.PL.POSS.body
"We need to look for the way to get water to save ourselves.

ba na gi lee na a ɲə buto n ɲem?"
how FOC 1.PL.SUBJ do and INF see water and drink
What will we do to get water to drink?"

saawara na saawara, na ba tí lə waa,
gathering? and gathering? and AGR TAM say that
From gathering to gathering?, they then said

fee ba jɛɛ udeŋ a tim gadʒa sul a tí ɲəŋə buto.
TAM 3.PL.SUBJ search one INF send? God at.home INF TAM ask.for? water
It is necessary to look for someone to send to God's house to ask for water.

na ba taba bɛɛ mbədee ba tsi ma
and 3.PL.SUBJ ask people REL 3.PL.SUBJ go SUB
And they asked who would go

bɔsapɪ bɔ ba ɲə tuutuuma a tɔ
birds FOC 3.SG.SUBJ see many INF take
Among the birds they found many to take

ama fee ba sɛŋkər mbudee bɔ sira ɔtaɔ ma
but TAM? 3.PL.SUBJ choose REL AGR be.able flying SUB
But they had to choose (someone) who could fly

ga ta ta gadʒaka, ga ti ga lee ifile iriu,
it get.up get.up morning AGR FUT AGR do days three
When the morning broke, it would take three days,

ka a sə gujo laŋ na, ka a sə atɪŋ na
NEG 3.SG.SUBJ sit tree on NEG NEG 3.SG.SUBJ sit on.ground NEG
he would not rest on a tree, he would not rest on the ground

ama gatsimkpɛlɛlɛ na ba pu a tu ɲə.
but swallow FOC 3.PL.SUBJ come INF TAM??? see
But it was the swallow that they came to get.

gadʒa ga kɔda ma,
morning AGR wake.up SUB
When morning came,

na ga tɔ ɔɲɪntʃa halɪ ifile iriu ipəlmə na ga je kpa gadʒa sul.
and AGR take path until days three entire and AGR TAM arrive God at.home
And she took the path for three days before she arrived at God's house.

na a tɔ faawu na lə waa:
and 3.SG.SUBJ take story and say that
And she took up the story and said:

"gatina kagɔjari gɔ tim ka amɔ akasul
earth POSS.high.king AGR send FOC? 1.SG.OBJ 2.SG.POSS.house
"It is the king of the earth who sent me to your house,

waa ma pi a ti la aki waa,
that I come INF TAM?? say 2.SG.OBJ that
he said that I should come to tell you that

bere, ibori, na bɔsapɪ ba ti fi atukɔmɔ"
people animals and birds 3.PL.SUBJ IMPF die thirst??
People, animals and birds, they are dying of thirst"

ɲkəŋ na ɪ sam na gadʒa n a la waa,
there FOC it be.SWEET with God and 3.SG.SUBJ say that
It was there that God was happy, and he said that

ade ka a jɔ waa gatina kagɔjari gu ti lige ade laŋ na.
3.SG.DEM.FAR NEG 2.SG.SUBJ know that earth POSS.high.king AGR IMPF remember? 3.SG.DEM ON NEG
he did not know that the king of the earth remembered him,

n a la waa, gasapi ga ti la afee gatina kagɔjari waa
and 3.SG.SUBJ say that bird AGR TAM say ???? earth POSS.high.king that
And he said that the bird should say to the king of the earth that

a ta a ɲə uto halɪ ɪ biɲe ni.
3.SG.SUBJ FUT 3.SG.SUBJ see rain until it? ???? in
he would see rain in abundance????

buto bɔ tɔ na pi.
water AGR FUT IMPF? come
water would be coming

"ama aki, gatsimkpɛlɛlɛ, ɔ ta a fiɛkpɛ gɪfɛbɔ na a je kpa afal."
but 2.SG.OBJ swallow, 2.SG.SUBJ FUT 2.SG.SUBJ be.wet well and INF TAM arrive home
"But you, swallow, you will be very wet before you get home."

na ga ta a tɔɔ ɔɲɪntʃa,
and it¹ TAM INF take path
And she got up to take the path (home)

ka a kana lɔm gədu na n uto a kpa na a tɔɔ ɔɲɪtɔ ma,
NEG 3.SG.SUBJ not.yet be.far place NEG and rain AGR arrive and AGR? take rain² SUB
She was not yet far from there when the rain came,

halɪ ifile ipəlmə iriu
until days all three
and it rained for three days.

na ga fiɛkpɛ, ɲəŋkərə ude kpa dʒi.
and 3.SG.CL?SUBJ be.wet be.cold AGR.DEM.FAR arrive FOC
And, wet and cold, she arrived (????)

1 Agrees with *gatsimkpɛlɛlɛ*, 'swallow'

2 This verb is only for rain, it refers to rain falling.

ga kpa mpa ni ma, ga ta la waa
3.SG.CL?SUBJ arrive village in SUB it TAM say that
When she arrived in the village, if she said that

ga kpa atja, bade ba kera dji, na a la waa
3.SG.CL?SUBJ arrive here, 3.PL.SUBJ.DEM.FAR AGR send.away?? 3.SG.CL?OBJ, and INF say that
she would enter here, they would send her away, to say that:

"doo saa apana na bɔsapu na bere ba na man na da?"
since wait together? FOC birds and people 3.PL.SUBJ IMPF mix IMPF be.there
"Since when do birds and people mix and live together?"

ufala iqunii u tu kera dji.
families all AGR TAM send.away 3.SG.CL?OBJ
All the families sent her away

na ga fal a tu patir na ŋku.
and 3.SG.CL?SUBJ pass? INF TAM? stick? with room
So she stuck herself to the side of the house????????????????

ŋkaŋ na ga lal n aku n atsintsana kɔpatir.
there FOC 3.SG.CL?SUBJ ????? with rooms and entryways?? sticking
So she still?? has the habit of attaching to houses and entryways

galan na ba la waa, baa u lee nsono bai,
??? FOC 3.PL.SUBJ say that each 2.SG.SUBJ do good how,
That is why they say that whatever good you do,

kutulu ka a na ja akinsono nleeka na.
ingrate? NEG AGR? IMPF know 2.SG.POSS.good deed NEG
an ingrate will not recognize your good deed