

Glossed text

See p. 237-239 in:

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NC: *Kan mo te ti boug, zafê te si move mo te*
when 1SG PST little guy thing PST so bad 1SG PST

NC: When I was a boy, things were so bad, I used to

di Mam, “E Mam, kon m a vini dèt
tell Mom hey Mom when 1SG FUT come COP
tell Mom, “Hey, Mom, when I grow up [lit. come
to be a man],

en nòm m ale kouri travay, n ale monje
DET.INDF man 1SG FUT go work 1PL FUT eat
I’m going to go to work, we’ll eat

tou sa n ole!” Paskè nou te pa <even>
all what 1PL want because 1PL PST NEG even
all we want!” Because we didn’t even

gen ase pou monje. Nou te pa g— to te
have enough for eat 1PL PST NEG 2SG PST
have enough to eat. We didn’t ha— you didn’t

pa gen ase pou monje. <a St. >John>
NEG have enough for eat at St. John¹
have enough to eat at St. John.

¹ St. John is the name of the plantation outside of the town of St. Martinville where the speaker grew up.

TK : *To te---* NC : <oh yeah!>
2SG PST

TK: You were--? NC: Oh yeah!

TK : *Vouzòt te fèn ?* NC : <Oh yeah! Oh yeah.>
2PL PST hungry

TK: You were hungry? NC: Oh yeah! Oh yeah!

TK: [...] *manje?*
[...] eat

TK: [...] eat?

NC : *Mo kouri o <store> a <St. John.> Nou kite*
1SG go to store at St. John 1PL leave

NC: I went to the store at St. John. We left

la mezon a set-èr l matin.
DET.DEF house at seven-hour DET.DEF morning
the house at seven o'clock in the morning

On en mèkredi. <Uh> sa se te
on DET.INDF Wednesday DEM COP PST
on a Wednesday. Uh, that was [reserved]

pou le moun blan, on mèkredi. Me
for DET.DEF.PL person white on Wednesday but
for white folks, on Wednesdays. But

nou te, nou te pa gen aryen pou monje.
1PL PST 1PL PST NEG have nothing for eat
we, we didn't have anything to eat.

<So> *nou kouri o— Mam voye nouzòt o <store>*
so 1PL go to Mom send 1PL to store
So we went to—Mom sent us to the store,

mo e mo sœ, s-- bonœ l maten.
 1SG and 1SG sister early DET.DEF morning
 my sister and me, early in the morning.

Pou chèche en galon diri e en
 for look-for DET.INDF gallon rice and DET.INDF
 To get a gallon of rice and

moso la vyann sale e en <can>
 piece DET.DET meat salted and DET.INDF can
 a piece of salt meat and a can of

tomat. To kone kèl œr ye sœrvi nouzòt?
 tomato 2SG know what hour 3PL serve 1PL
 tomatoes. You know what time they served us?

De-z-œr e dmi lapremidi la. Se te
 two-PL-hour and half afternoon DET COP PST
 Two-thirty in the afternoon. It was

de-z-œr a-- œr e dmi lapremidi la mo
 two-PL-hour hour and half afternoon DET 1SG
 two-thirty-- -thirty in the afternoon, I

te si fen mo te, mo te pròch peu plu
 PST so hungry 1SG PST 1SG PST almost be.able NEG
 was so hungry I could, I could hardly

war. <So> ye te gen en boug--<ub> (bon a)
 see so 3PL PST have DET.INDF guy good ?
 see anymore. So there was a guy— Well,

chak fwa ye te vini komonse sœrvi o nouzòt,
 each time 3PL PST come begin serve at 1PL
 every time they'd start to serve us,

si en blan k se vini, “He! Me twa
if DET.INDF white REL IRR come hey put 2SG
if a white person would come, (they’d say), “Hey! Step

a kote!” La kon mo monde kèstyon, mo di,
at side then when 1SG ask question 1SG say
aside!” Then when I asked a question, I said,

“<Well>, nou, nou isi dipi bonmaten!” Boug
well 1PL 1PL here since early.morning guy
“Well, we, we’ve been here since this morning!” The

la di, “(Me), to, to <smart> ti
DET.DEF say but 2SG 2SG smart little
guy said, “(Well), you’re, you’re a smart little

neg, m a met en baton on twa!”
Nigger 1SG FUT put DET.INDF stick on 2SG
Nigger, I’m going to take a stick to you!”

<So> ena en boug blan (i) di “Me,
so there.is DET.INDF guy white (3SG) say but
So there was a white guy, (he) said,

to min b-- t ap di mon ye bin la
2SG mean 2SG PST PROG say 1SG 3PL COP.PST here
“But, you mean—you’re telling me they’ve

dipi bomaten, » li di “me komon zòt sèrv
since early.morning 3SG say but how 2PL serve
been here since this morning?” He said, “Well why

pa s-- pa [unclear]?” En, en boug
NEG NEG DET.INDF DET.INDF guy
don’t you serve them?” A, a white man.

blan (la). I di, « Me t ape, t ape pran
white there 3SG say but 2SG PROG 2SG PROG take
He [i.e., the storekeeper] said, “So you’re taking up

pou nèg ye ? » <So> i di, “Me non, me
for Nigger PL so 3SG say but no but
for the Niggers?” So he said, “Well no, but

ti-boug la fen!” <So> i mande mon si
little-guy DET.DEF hungry so 3SG ask 1SG if
the little boy is hungry!” So he asked me if I

mo te fen mo di, “O wi, mo fen!” <So>
1SG PST hungry 1SG say oh yes 1SG hungry so
was hungry, I said, “Oh yes, I’m hungry!” So

i kouri dan sokèn (chèz) i dòn mon,
3SG go in 3SG.POSS (thing) 3SG give 1SG
he reached [lit., went] into his own (thing [i.e., bag?]), he gave me,

euh, <baloney>, e dipen. Avon li toune
uh baloney and bread before 3SG turn
uh, baloney, and bread. Before he’d turned

so do mo te monje sa deja, i
3SG.POSS back 1SG PST eat that already 3SG
his back I’d already eaten it, he

di, “Mè, to monje sa deja?!” (mo) di “Wè,
say but 2SG eat that already (1SG) say yes
said, “But, you ate that already?!” (I) said, “Yes,

mo, mo fen!” <So> i dòn mo en
1SG 1SG hungry so 3SG give 1SG DET.INDF
I, I’m hungry!” So he gave me a

gro boutèy <pop>, di mon “Me gad, pron sa!”
 big bottle pop² say 1SG but look take that
 big bottle of pop, told me, “Well look, take this!”

<So he give me> <the wh>-- li dòn
 so 3SG give 1SG DET.DEF 3SG give
 So he gave me the wh—he gave

mo <the whole>-- tou pake. Mo e
 1SG DET.DEF whole all package 1SG and
 me the whole—whole package. Me and

mo sær.
 1SG.POSS sister
 my sister.

² *Pop* is a common shortened term for “soda pop,” or soft drink (such as Coca-Cola, Pepsi, Sprite, 7-Up, etc.).