

Song of di flower woman

“I_ no dey kill fowl.
Na fowl meat me dey chop.*
I no dey drink woman milk.
Na woman cow me dey suck.”
“For sake of,
Woman no pass man.
For sake of,
Woman dey pass flower.”**

Di flower I dey pass nko?`***
'Im dey cause you wahala?****
'Im dey cause you to hala?+
No be santana++ you dey chop,
From woman wey dey pass flower?

“I no dey eat maggot,
But I eat rotten meat.
Woman no pass man
For sake of
Woman dey pass flower.”

Di flower I dey pass so,
As I cook corn flower so,
You go still chop am,
You go still talk am.

“Woman no pass man
For sake of
Woman dey pass flower.”

* Eat.
** Menstruate.
*** So what?
**** Trouble/nuisance.
+ Wail/cry.
++ Cassava fufu.

You say woman no fit be priest,
For inside your water church.
No be woman oracle,
Daughter of Ibini Ukpabi,*
Wey save dis your life,
When brokos** lose power?

Now you knack nyash*** for ground,
Dey chop santana and Okporoko,****
Dey wash am wit ogogoro,+
Dey wait for corn flower,
From woman wey dey pass flower.
And you still dey shout am.
“Woman no pass man
For sake of
Woman dey pass flower.”

Di flower wey cover your body
Di flower wey you carry come,
When you pass di gate of flower,
Commot from di home of flower,
Into this house of flower?
No be woman nyash
Wey you pass come,
Dey make noise,
Dey shout,

“Woman no pass man
for sake of
Woman dey pass flower.”

*This poem was inspired by the reaction of the predominantly
male audience to Tunde Fatunde's poem, "Women dey Suffer."
The occasion was a poetry session to memory of a poet,
Esiri Dafiewhare. University of Benin, 1989.*

* A prominent oracle of the Aro.
** Penis.
*** Bottom.
**** Stockfish.
+ Locally brewed gin.