


Walking with Asafo Song Texts¹

1a. Ya ara nkyɛ (Nkum na Abandze)
Ya ara nkyɛ, ya ara nkyɛ
Ya ara nkyɛ, ya ara nkyɛ, ya ara nkyɛ
Ya ara nkyɛ na Nkum na Abandze
Hɛn edzi nkwiseako

It is us otherwise (Had it been us)
It is us otherwise (Had it been us)
It is us otherwise, Nkum and Abandze
Their fight is a foolish fight

1b. Ya ara, ya ara
Etsiwafo mbanyin e,
Etsiwafo mbanyin mbɔsom!

It is us otherwise (Had it been us)
Etsiwafo strong men (soldiers) e
Etsiwafo strong men would have come in
(intervened)

2. Kweku Anankor ei 
Ee! Nana Kweku Anankor ei
Kweku Anankor ei
Kweku Anankor ei
Sɛ ɔayɛ a, sɛ ɔayɛ a, sɛ ɔayɛ a
Sɛ ɔayɛ ee, sɛ ɔayɛ ee
Kweku Anankor ei
Sɛ ɔayɛ a !

One-legged Kweku
Ee! One-legged Kweku
(Appellations)

3. Ye him abo
Ye him abo
Tuafo mba e
Hɛn enyi aber o

We push rocks (we are strong)
We push rocks
Tuafo children
Our eyes are red (we are serious)

4. Yɛyɛ Edenafo oo!
Yɛyɛ Edenafo oo!
Yɛyɛ Denafo oo!
Nana Borɔntɔ Kwesi ee!

We are Elmina People oo!
We are Elmina People oo!
We are Elmina People oo!
Nana Borɔntɔ Kwesi (appealing God of a
river)

Yɛyɛ Edenafo oo!

We are Elmina People oo!

5. Hɛn nananom
Hɛn nananom
Hɛn nananom wɔsoom abosom
Na hɛn dze
Na hɛn dze
Na hɛn dze yɛbɔsom Yehowa

Our Ancestors, our Ancestors
Our Ancestors, our Ancestors
Our Ancestors worshipped Gods
As for us
As for us
We shall worship Yehowa (God)

¹ I have provided in-depth translations of some texts, while I have summed up the theme for others.

6. Yeyε Edenafo oo!
Yeyε Edenafo oo!
Yeyε Edenafo oo!
Nana Borɔntɔ Kwesi e!

Nana Borɔntɔ Kwesi

Yeyε Edenafo oo!
Ebubur, bubur, ebubur
Dɔm bi afre hɛn a
Dɔm mbra!
O, ayee!
Nana Borɔntɔ Kwesi ee!
Yeyε Edenafo oo!

7. Anaafɔ Asafo Call

Nyew o nyew o nyew o
Nana Nyame e hɛn nyina hɛn wura e
Yee, yee Onyame oo! (2x)
Otwadu Nyankopɔn (2x)
ɔtɔ nsu ma asaase, asaase nya bi ma akromɔ (2x)

Nyew o, Nana Nyame e, hɛn nyina ara hɛn wura e!
Yee, yee, Onyame o!

8. Kormantse na Abandze!

Wombisa hɔn ko yi ase ε?
Abora ee, wombisa oo!
Kormantse na Abandze ee!
Wommbisa oo!
Nkum rusu a, Bentsir a
Wombisa hɔn mpanyi ase!

9. Nana Emina Osuom

Eminsa Osuom e, Nana Eminsa e
Obi mfra hɛn (o)
Hɛn ara yɛdze hɛn man
ɔkoko kɛsɛ, Nana Eminsa Osuom (e)
Obi mfra hɛn (o)
Hɛn ara yɛdze hɛn man
Yergor maa
Abowa (bi) nyi beebi (na) waafa hɛn ɛdzi
Osuom a ɔdze ne man

We are Elmina People oo!
We are Elmina People oo!
We are Elmina People oo!
Nana Borɔntɔ Kwesi e! (appealing God of a river)
Nana Borɔntɔ Kwesi (appealing God of a river)
We are Elmina people oo!
Dove, dove, dove
If we are called by multitude
Multitude come!
O, ayee!

Yes, yes
Yes, God, the Gentleman of all of us
Yee, yee, God
Almighty God
He gave rain onto earth; earth gave some to the eagle
Yes, God, the Gentleman of all of us
Yee, yee, God o!

Kormantse and Abandze
Ask out about your war
Abora ee find out oo!
Kormantse and Abandze
Ask oo!
If Nkum is crying, it is Bentsir
Ask about their seniority

Nana Eminsa Osuom (appellation)

Nana Eminsa Osuom
Nobody should call us o
We own our state
A mighty rock, Nana Eminsa Osuom e,
Nobody should call us o
We own our state
We really do show
There is no beast anywhere to devour us
Osuom who owns her state

10. Waadwe oo, waadwe
Wadweoo waadwe waadwe
Wadweoo waadwe waadwe
Hen nananom Bentsir Tuafo ee
Wenyi ayew wenyi ayew anokwafo
Wenyi ayew bi

It is calm, it is calm, it is calm
It is calm oo, it is calm, it is calm
It is calm oo, it is calm, it is calm
Our Ancestors of Bentsir Tuafo ee
They were ungrateful faithfals
They were not any grateful

11. ɔawar Eminsɔ, ɔawar ɔbaapa

ɔawar Eminsɔ, ɔawar ɔbaapa

Na Ama Amina ee
ɔawar Eminsɔ , ɔawar ɔbaapa ee

ɔawar Eminsɔ a, ɔawar ɔbaapa!

He has married Eminsɔ; he has married a
good woman
He has married Eminsɔ; he has married a
good woman
Mother Amina ee
He has married Eminsɔ; he has married a
good woman!

12. Yeyɛ Kwɔnafo
Yeyɛ Kwɔnafo
Sika na dwɛtɛ yɛ hɔn dze
Hen nananom kyekyer boa
Dze tu kwan
Sika, dwɛtɛ na ahodze pa
ɔyɛ hen dze

We are Kɔna people
We are Kɔna people
Money and gold belong to us
Our Ancestors gathered things together
And travelled with them
Money, gold, and jewelries
Belong to us

13. Ekua Oguanyi
Ekua Oguanyi na ɔreba n'
Wɔmma no kwan
Na ɔnye dɔm mbesen

Ekua the entrepreneur
Ekua the entrepreneur is coming
Give her way
To move through with her multitude

14. Wɔma yɛnkɔ ne fie
Wɔma yɛnkɔ ne fie
Yɛaba oo ee!
Wɔma yɛnkɔ ne fie.
Yɛaba oo ee!
Ne fie wɔnsa a, wɔnom!

Let's go to his house
Let's go to his house
We've come oo ee
Let's go to his house
We've come oo ee
His house has drinkable wine

15. Santrofi anoma
Santrofi anoma
Efa no a, afa busu adze

Santrofi bird
Santrofi bird
If you take it, you have taken a curse (bad
omen)
Santrofi bird
If you leave it, you've left oil (prosperity)
What does the bad servant say

Santrofi anoma
Igyaa no a, egyaa siardze
Akoa bɔn ɔsese den

16. Wɔse menkyerɛ m'
Wɔse menkyerɛ m'
Mobɔto me panyin ana oewu
Mobɔto me panyin ana oewu
Kodwo Esuon nkyɛ
Wɔse menkyerɛ m' a
Mobɔto m'panyin ana oewu

They say I should explain
They say I should explain
I met my Elder before he passed on
I met my Elder before he passed on
Kodwo Esuon did not last
They say I should explain
I met my Elder before he passed on

17. Yefi abo m' ee
Yefi abo m' ee
Abo m' ee
Kwɔna Aboradze
Yefi abo m' ara
Yeyɛ ahondze papa yi a
Yefi abom' ee
Kwɔna Aboradze
Yefi abom' ee
Yefi abom' ara
Yeyɛ ahondze papa yi a
Kwɔna Aboradze
Yefi abom' ee
Yefi abom' oo
Abom' ara a
Yeyɛ ahondze papa yi a

We are from rocks (descendants of beads)
We are from rocks (descendants of beads)
From rocks
Kwɔna Aboradze (appellation)
We are from rocks
We are precious beads

18. Kormantse na Abandze!
Wombisa hɔn ko yi ase ɛ?
Abora ee, wombisa oo!
Kormantse na Abandze ee!
Wommbisa oo!
Nkum rusu a, Bentsir a
Wombisa hɔn mpanyi ase!

Kormantse and Abandze
Ask out about your war
Abora ee find out oo!
Kormantse and Abandze
Ask oo!
If Nkum is crying, it is Bentsir
Ask about their seniority

19. Awo nye
Awo nye, awo nye
Nsu o, enam o
Abowa
Mbrɛana wo bo efuw a,
Mbrɛana wo bo efuw a abowa!
Mbrɛana wo bo efuw a eh eh!

20. Odum na Eminsā
Odum na Eminsā
ɔkɔ adapa ase na
ɔkɔ war egya n' a?
ɔawar Eminsā

Odum and Eminsā
Odum and Eminsā

Ofi adapa ase na
ɔakɔwar egya n' a?
ɔawar n' ee
ɔawar n' ee, Odum nna
ɔawar n' ee, ɔawar n' ee
ɔawar Eminsɔ, ɔawar]baapa!
Odum, ɔawar Eminsɔ

21. Nana Sesa Kwesi
Nana Sesa Kwesi
Pom' adwe a, bisa Kwesi ε
Nana Sesa Kwesi e
Nana Sesa Kwesi
Pom' adwe a, bisa Kwesi a
Pom' adwe a, bisa Kwesi ε
Hen adwe aa
Nana e!
Hen adwe aa
ɔtow prɛko ana dɔm ruguan
Aba a, Kwesi mbo!

22. Gyesi Mbo
ɔhen Gyesi mbo!
ɔhen Gyesi mbo!
ɔama mfantse asaase kyir hɛn
ɔhen Gyesi mbo!
ɔhen Gyesi ee
ɔko esi oo!
ɔhen Gyesi mbo!

23. Wɔmfɔ nyɛ hɔn nanom
Wɔmfɔ nyɛ hɔn egyanom
Aborɔfo ee
Wɔmfɔ nyɛ hɔn nanom
Wɔmfɔ nyɛ hɔn egyanom
Adze a wɔdze yɛ ebibifo yi a
Wɔmfɔ nyɛ nanom
Wɔmfɔ nyɛ hɔn egyanom
Yebu hɔn dɛn' yi
Aborɔfo ee
Yebu hɔn dɛn nyɛ' yi e
Yebu hɔn ntwe na ndoa
Wɔnnyɛ mbanyin bi a!

24. Efua Krowa
Minya hen, minya hen o

Nana Sesa Kwesi
Nana Sesa Kwesi e
If the forest is calm ask Kwesi

When he shoots, the multitude ran away
Goodness, Kwesi well done

King Gyesi well done

May it be done to your mothers
May it be done to your fathers
White people ee
Do it to your mothers
Do it to your fathers
What you do to Africans
May it be done to your mothers
May it be done to your fathers
How do we respect you
White people ee
How do we respect you
You are antelopes and deer
You are not men at all!

Efua Krowa
Where will I find, where will I find o

Efua Krowa wɔgye m' n'ara
Amon m' minya n' hen aa
Efua Krowa ba Efua
Amon m' n' ara
Wɔgye m' prem-prem, prem, prem, prem

25. Efua Odondo
Minnyi na na mesu mafre n'
Minnyi wofa na mesu mafre n'
Odondo, nde a muruwu
Nde Nana Efua Odondo
Agyenkwa!
Mennya wo anka m'enyi egyina oo!
Ato m' awerehow ara nko
Nde, minnyi na na mesu mafre n'aa
Minnyi wofa kuma na mesu mafre n'aa
Odondo, nde a muruwu
Nde Nana Efua Odondo
Agyenkwa!
Mennya wo anka m'enyi egyina oo!
ato m' awerehow ara nko a!

26. Daano wɔnye hen ye
Daano wɔnye hen ye
Daana wɔnye hen ye
Nana Kwansa wɔ edur
Wɔnya abeɛɛɛ a, wɔfre hen
Wɔnye hen ye aa
Kwamena Kwansa, ɔwɔ edur a
Wɔnya abeɛɛɛ a, wɔfre hen

27. Asamankama Aba
Asamankama Aba, onnyi banyin
Asamankama Aba, onnyi basia
Mebɔpe beebi ara na mada o
Asamankama Aba e
Wɔmma m' beebi m' menda
Ama Asamankama e
Wɔmma m' beebi m' menda
Ma me beebi na mada o
Asamankama Aba e
Wɔmma m' beebi m' menda
Wɔmma me beebi ma menda
ɔrepe beebi ara na ɔada o
Asamankama Aba e

Efua Krowa, they are getting it today
Efua Krowa child Efua
This very moment
They are getting it right, right right now

Efua Odondo
I don't have a mother to cry out to
I don't have an uncle to cry out to
Odondo, today that I am dying
Today, Nana Efua Odondo
Life saver
Had I not had you, I would have no standing
I am left with sadness
Today, I don't have a mother to cry out to
I don't have a younger uncle to cry out to
Odondo, today that I am dying
Today, Nana Efua Odondo
Life saver
Had I not had you, I would have no standing
I am left with sadness a!

Last time, they did not praise us
Last time, they did not praise us
Last time, they did not praise us
Nana Kwansa has medicine
When they have trouble they call us
They don't praise us
Kwamena Kwansa has medicine
When they have trouble they call us

Asamankama Aba
Asamankama Aba does not have a son
Asamankama Aba does not have a daughter
I am looking for some place to sleep o
Asamankama Aba e
Give me some place to sleep
Asamankama Aba e
Give me some place to sleep
Give me some place to sleep
Asamankama Aba e
Give me some place to sleep
Give me some place to sleep
She is looking for some place to sleep o
Asamankama Aba e

Womma m' beebi menda o!

Give me some place to sleep

28. Dua no ebu
Dua no ebu
Hen dua no ebu oo
Tuafo mba ee!
Hen dua kakra no a
Daano osi hon'
Onnyi ho!
Dua kakra n' a
Osi hon'
Onnyi ho
Dua n' ebu a
Dua no ebu a
Onnyi ho
Dua no ebu a
Dua no ebu a
Onnyi ho
Agyensem' dua!
Yeakyer banyin agye ne nsa m' dua e

The tree has fallen
The tree has fallen
Our tree has fallen oo
Tuafo children
Our big tree
That was standing there
Is not there
The big tree
That was standing
Is not there
The tree has fallen
The tree has fallen
Is not there
The tree has fallen
The tree has fallen
Is not there
Taker of stick (strength, life)
They have caught a man and taken his stick

29. Mfantseman School Ode (Intro)

Ei, ei, ei, ei, ei, ɔson ei!
Oburmankoma ee!
Oburmankoma ɔdapagyan ee!
Oburmankoma ɔdapagyan ee!
ɔson ee, ɔson n'ekyir nnyi abowa!

Ei, ei, ei, ei, ei, Elephant ei!
Eagle ee!
Eagle, whale ee!
Eagle, whale ee!
Elephant ee, they is not animal after the
Elephant

30. Mfantseman School Ode (Stanza)

oman sika a wodze retsetse wo yi

Ho boba mfaso ama wo a
ɔbra yi ofi woara
Ntsi biribiara besi wo yie a
Ofi woara
Ahobrase ofi woara
Wo mbɔdzembɔ, ofi woara
ɔbra yi ofi , ofi woara
Ne nyinara ofi Woara
Ofi woara wo mbɔdzembɔ o!

The nation's money that they spending on
you
If that would become useful for you
This life depends on you
If everything ends well for you
It depends on you
Humility depends on you
Your hard work depends on you
The life depends on you
It all depends on you
It depends on your hard work o!

31. Adende

ɔaka bosom nsu ee!
ɔaka bosom nsu ee!
Tuafo mba ee!

Adende
It is left with water ee!
It is left with water ee!
Tuafo's children

Adende, adende ɔaka bosom nsu a
Ya ara ee!
Adende, adende
ɔaka bosom nsu a
Ya ara ye saw!

32. Akyem Esuantse
Yee Akyem Esuantse wɔmbra oo, ee ee!
Yee Akyem Esuantse wɔmbra oo, ee ee!
eye a, wɔmbra
eye a, wɔmbra oo!
Asafo, wɔmbra oo, yee!

33. ɔkɔtɔfo Gyesei
Ye dze ebisadze
Yeribisa hen tsir
Hom mma yembisa ɔman yi ana
Se ye annko a, Amferfo
Se ye annko a, ɔman yi abo

34. ɔdɔm Kyirem
Nana: ɔdɔm Kyirem yehu adze o, aye
Jojo: Yoo aye
Mbaa wɔroko a wɔdze hen
Mbanyin so roko a wɔdze hen
Asafo Amferfo a yehu adze

35. Abanyi
Abanyi o, Abanyi
Abanyi o, Abanyi
Eyee biribi a nka
Roko amanko a
Ma wo tsir do
Na dabi asem
oko aba na dakor asem a

36. Kweku Anankor ei
Ee! Nana Kweku Anankor ei
Kweku Anankor ei
Kweku Anankor ei
Se ɔaye a, se ɔaye a, se ɔaye a
Se ɔaye ee, se ɔaye ee
Kweku Anankor ei
Se ɔaye a!

Tuafo's children, it is left with water
It is only us
Adende, adende
It is left with water
Only we fetch it

Akim Ashanti
Yee Akim Ashanti come oo eee!
Yee Akim Ashanti come oo eee!
Come often
Come often ooo
Warriors come oo, yee!

ɔkɔtɔfo Gyesei
We are asking about our fate

Let's ask the town first
If we don't go, Amferfo Asafo battalion
If we don't go, the town will fall

ɔdɔm Kyirem
ɔdɔm Kyirem, we have suffered o
Yoo aye
When women are proceeding they rely on us
When men also proceeding they rely on us
Asafo Amferfo, we suffer

Abanyi (name of a person)
Abanyi o, Abany
Abanyi o, Abanyi
You did something
When you are going to an ancient place
Life your head up
For one day
The war will last one day

One-legged Kweku
Ee! One-legged Kweku
(Appellations)

37. Yɛkɔr Akyemfo nyimpa nnyi ho
Yɛkɔr Akyemfo Nyimpa nny ho
Tuafo mba ee
Kofi Dedu mba Kyiremfo mbanyin
Yɛkɔr Akyemfo nyimpa nnyi ho
Etsi edu ee (nkotsee)
Yɛkɔr Akyemfo nyimpa nnyi ho
Yɛapata apata anntsew

Yekosuo nkorɔfo m' dua anntsew
Yɛkɔr Akyemfo nyimpa nnyi ho
Etsi edu ee
Yɛkɔr Akyemfo nyimpa nnyi ho

38. Gyesi Mbo
Gyesi mbo, ɔhen Gyesi mbo!
ɔama asaase ekyir hen
ɔhen Gyesi mbo, ɔhen Gyesi ee!
ɔko esi oo
ɔhen Gyesi mbo!

39. Egya yɛma hom akɔaba
Egya ye, egya ye
Yɛma hom akɔaba o
Mbanyin yi o
Yee!!
Egya yee , yɛma wo akɔaba
Mbanyin yi!

Spoken Word

1. I am Asafo
I am
Asafo
I was born a long time ago
When Nananom came from Sudan
I sing, I drum, I dance well
I used *gyina ho hwɛ* drum
To call the people together
When someone drowned
I called people together when someone got lost
Put out fires
To build

I
Called people when someone was sick
When someone died

We went to Akyemfo (Saltpond)
We went to Akyemfo people were not there
Tuafo children ee
Kofi Dedu's children, Kyirem batttalion
We went to Akyemfo people were not there
Only ten heads (people)
We went to Akyemfo people were not there
We intervened and intervened nothing
happened
We held the people's tail it did nothing
We went to Akyemfo people were not there
Only ten heads
We went to Akyemfo people were not there

Gyesi (Safohen), well done
Gyesi well, King Gyesi well done

Elders, we welcome you
Elders ye, Elders ye
Elders, we welcome
Strong men o
Yee
Elders, we welcome
Here are strong men!

I brought Kormantse together
Protected Kormantse
The foundation
I
Am Asafo!

2. Meyε Asafo
Meyε Asafo
Wɔwom' tsetsepɔn
Aber a nananom fii Sudan bae
Motow ndwom, mobɔ ayer, mesaw yie
Sε nsu fa obi a
Misi kyen do
Frε dɔm na yε dze keyi n'
Sε obi yew a
Mefrε dɔm na yɛdze hwehwɛn'
Sε gya rehyew a,
Mefrε dɔm ma wodum gya n'
Meka a Kormantse ko baa n'
Emi na mobɔɔ ɔman no ho ban
Kormantse ngyinado
Meyε
Asafo

I am Asafo (Warrior)
I am Asafo
I was born in ancient times
When our Ancestors came from Sudan
I sing, I play drums, and I dance well
If someone drowns
I sound the drums
I call multitudes to rescue her
If someone gets lost
I call multitudes to rescue her
If fire is burning
I call multitudes to douse it
I came with Kormantse
I protect the town
Kormantse's foundation
I am
Asafo (Warrior)

3. They've Thrown me Away
I am Asafo
Today, they say
I am fetish
Evil
Nobody comes to me
The town has left me
Church has silenced me
People are dying, dying
Kormantse has fallen apart
They have left everything
Traditions
Silenced

Ah, I am dying
Gyina hɔ hwε drum does not speak anymore
My flags are stuck in the room
My drummers afraid of chastisement
Eminsa roof
Ru-lu-lu-lu-lu-lu-lu
No more

I came with Komer from Sudan
Long time ago

Enam dua so nti na ahoma aduru soro
It is because of the tree that the rope reaches the sky
The town stands because of me
I protected the town
Fought for you
I am tradition
Wisdom knot
Foundation
Very, very old
Life is like a cobweb; it takes wisdom to entangle it
Don't throw me away
I
Am Asafo

4. They Call Me Fetish
I am
Asafo
Today, they say
I am fetish
The town has forsaken me
We are dying
We have left everything
Silenced
Gyina ho hwe drum does not speak
Flags are stuck at the *ahenfie*

I
Who protected the town
Fought for them
Dowsed the Asante fire
Kim-kim-kim-kim
Sru-di-di-di-di sru
They have forsaken me

Hyiee, *ewiase*
Akokɔ didi wie a ɔpepa na no
Hyiee, as for this world
When the chicken finishes eating it wipes its mouth
It forgets
I am dying
Don't let them dig my grave
I
Am Asafo