

**Gbessa Sekou and Djekoria Mory** (Chapter 11 in my book)

Youtube video on lisafeder.com channel.

<https://youtu.be/4wBD9r24XU>

This video takes place at Gbessa Sekou's home outside of Paris, October 2018.

Certain sections are of particular interest.

*Transcription of Gbessa Sekou's Words:*

:34- :49 seconds

"Our culture is called Jeliya. Nothing can change the melody, etc...in jeliya. Afrobeat is not us. Its not Guinea. We will continue. But Europe is degrading it in a way that's becoming bad, and that shouldn't be! Because it's the young people who are right."

:50 seconds

"People stand by the singers who send out a message."

[Sekou sings about his late mother to his sister and makes her cry while doing it. This is jeli work].

1:22

You can have a big name and sing like Michael Jackson. But *Soriyo* and jeliya, that is the source."

[*Soriyo* is a Manding term that indicates that the jelis will "call in the horses" when they sing- meaning they will bring big power through their music/message to their listeners.]

*Djekoriya Mory*: "You can't create jeliya by accident."

1:38

*Gbessa Sekou*

"You can go after money and still be a griot. It's okay. Because, today, to live, even with griotism we have to globalize. But without abandoning your own culture, your tradition."

"Show a person to whom you say hello, in jeliya, in any culture, that he has brains in his head, and when you come to him, you have something to learn. That is the difference!"

*Djekoria Mory*

2:01-2:08

"Jeliya is a small thing that is big. It's Respect."