

Hakalo Katoo, Banda-Ahenkro¹

The ancestress of Hakalo Katoo was a woman by the name of Yaa Afra who was living near the present town of Nsawkaw. She had established her own village near Nsawkaw where she was raising rabbits and cats. The woman's son was a hunter and on one of his hunting trips came as far as the place where the Nafana of Banda were staying. He was happy to meet people speaking the same language as himself (i.e. Nafaanra). The man related to the Nafana that he and his family had been suffering among the people with whom they were living. He related that, because his mother was rich, people had been coming to her for loans but had not been paying them back. Thus the people were cheating her. The Omanhene of Banda assured the hunter that a close friendship would be kept and someone was sent with him to accompany him back to their place.

After this, the people of Banda and Hakalo Katoo were in touch with one another. Whenever the Omanhene (Sie Dongi at the time) was in need of money, he would send to the woman for help. After some time the Banda paramount chief decided they should leave that place since someone might come and invade them and take away their possessions. Negotiations ensued and the family moved to join the Banda Nafana. This was prior to the time that the Nafana moved north into the Mo territories.

When they came to Banda, some of the children from the house were involved at the palace. These included a man Kpema who was a good drummer; Kwabena Nyuu who was one of the chief's devoted messengers; and Kwadjo Gbangawra, who was a good friend to the chief. One member of the family was very brave and helped the chief in times of war. To reward him for his brave deeds, the chief decided to confer the title of Nifahene on him. Gbangawra's mother, Yaa Afra, objected to her son taking up such a position. To demonstrate her objection, she shot an arrow into the bark of a kapok and when she pulled the arrow out, some of the kapok came out with the arrow. She then told him "If you become Nifahene, you have to bleed in wars and this is how, one day, your intestines will come out. If you need anything, I have money, so there is no need to fight for a position." On his mother's council, he declined the position of Nifahene. The mother bought him a horse as consolation. This was the first horse in the area. The Paramount Chief insisted, however, on rewarding him with some position on account of his brave deeds and bestowed on him the position of linguist. Gbangawra is also said to have retrieved the King's big drums which went missing in a time of war.

Male Heads of Family

1. Hakalo
2. Hakojo
3. Dabla Krɔchire
4. Hayaw
5. Krɛɛma
6. Kofi Bɛw
7. Kofi Gyato
8. Wulo Kwaku
9. Kofi Krah

Female Heads of Family

1. Yaa Afra
2. Abena Lɔkɔlɔkɔ
3. Gyininge
4. Adwoa Donkor
5. Penimbor
6. Abena Kra

Interview conducted on 1 August 1986 with Kofi Krah (Dwantuahene), Adamah (linguist), and Adwoa Broni.

Interview conducted by Dr. Ann B. Stahl and Mr. James Anane.

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