

Shiofi Katoo, Banda-Ahenkro¹

Shiofi Katoo is one of the seven founding families of Banda-Ahenkro. Shiofi was a man who came to this area from Kakala along with Kralongɔ. Shiofi's sister--Afua Yeli--was married to Kralongɔ. The house is known as the children of Kralongɔ and, as such, the people of Shiofi Katoo are always interested in the father's house (i.e. the Royal House). Thus, they assist the Omanhene in whatever he does. In the event of the death of the Paramount Chief, the Shiofi house is informed and gives money toward the funeral expenses. They may also be counted upon to help with any debt incurred by the paramount chief. At every state festival, a sheep is killed on the house stool and a thigh from this sheep is sent to the paramount chief.

The position of Abakomahene came to rest with Shiofi Katoo at a time when the Nafana people were living to the north of the Black Volta River. Here, the Nafana entered into a dispute with the Kulango people at a town called Awaso. The Nafana were driven away. At that time there were three stools for the paramount chief. Upon leaving the area, the Nafana came to realize that one of the three stools had been left behind. Upon reaching Ahenkro, they became aware of the loss of the stool, and the Paramount Chief, Kralongɔ, needed someone to go and retrieve the stool. The paramount chief then informed Afua Yeli, his wife, that one of the stools was missing. She had a very strong and brave son named Shieba who had played a major role in the fight with the Gonjas—so he was asked to go and retrieve the stool. Shieba and his sister, named Yeli Kradu, went to the place where the stool had been left—a place called Wakawaka. By paying 75 sterling, the two succeeded in getting the stool released to them by the Kulango. On account of this service, Kralongɔ entrusted custody of this stool to the house of Shiofi and conferred a title on them.

If you beat someone from the house of Shiofi, you must provide a sheep to be slaughtered on the stool of Shiofi Katoo. If someone is chasing you who wants to beat you, and you run into Shiofi Katoo, you cannot be beaten. Shiofi Katoo is thus a house in which to take refuge.

Male Heads of Family

1. Shieba (Shebaa)
2. Shiofi
3. Tamia
4. Kyirifase Dabla
5. Nɔfa Yaw Sie
6. Kofi Asare (head in 1986)

Female Heads of Family

1. Afua Yeli
2. Hle Mmo
3. Lelee Amma
4. Yaa Kumah
5. Nyini
6. Kosua Yablewo (head in 1986)

Interview on July 24, 1986 with Kofi Asare (Abakomahene), Kwabena Dibi, Yaw Krah and Listowel Mensah.

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

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