

Have you switched it on? (Yes, I have switched it on.)  
 Then, let us have our conversation and when we finish having ~~ours~~ <sup>that of Akua</sup> (Yes, O, it doesn't matter) Let us finish our conversation. (That of Akua should finish) (Yes) (When we finish, then I and you may have home conversation) (O, it doesn't matter) Then, let us have it. (All right).

It means that formerly, feeding of people was not very difficult. That was it. (Is that so?) If you will take out little money at all, you can eat. Now the children and I, they are five and also this my child and her husband are among. Some day you will take three thousand before I eat. While three thousand too is not the profit on the work you do that you spend. You won't get profit like that to spend. So it means that every time, it creates problem for you very much. It brings hardship to you. For if you don't take it, maybe you need pepper, maybe you need this and when you take it and you say that you are cutting it down, (i.e. reducing your expenditure) it is not possible. So every time what you should take, ~~it~~ <sup>that</sup> some will you take. Whether you will get or not you will take it like that. And in the past too, if you could take about four hundred Cedis, six people would be able to eat and become full (Yes) Today too, it is not like that. (And in the past, what did they do to get money to go and buy food to eat?) And in the past, ~~Yes~~, in the past for example, <sup>when</sup> you did work, do you see, we didn't use much money to work, you see, so, - (Is that so?) Yes - Do you see? I for example)

I went to get a passbook at V.A.C store for two hundred Cedis; do you see? So when you go too, they will give you goods all the time. So when the month is coming to an end, then you go and settle all your debt. They give them to you on credit like that and at that time, <sup>when</sup> white people were here, very small, when you go, then (Do raise your voice a bit) All right. (O, it is fine) When you go, they will give you goods on credit. When the month is coming to an end, then you will go and pay all your debt, and when you ~~settle~~ finish settling your account, then they give you another. So every time you don't have much problem. Do you see? When you are able to do much work every time, maybe when even the year ends, when Christmas is approaching, you who have been able to do much work, maybe they would give you half piece of cloth for Christmas. Do you see? You will work with a very large sum of money, yet you won't have much profit. (And formerly was two hundred Cedis a big money?) It was a very big money (Yes) The two hundred Cedis was a very big money. (And you would be tired before you get two hundred Cedis to go and buy in the store?) Yes. Yes, you get tired. For if you get tired and you have two hundred Cedis, you will get (i.e. you will get the goods) Now, where I put up a house for example, I got it for two hundred Cedis; where I built a house. (The plot?) The whole plot. I bought two plots for four hundred Cedis. (Ah! so you bought two?)

Two and as for one, I have built it; we have started one a little. (Ei! you have done well) Do you see? Two hundred. Today, now, it has reached three million. (Mm. Three million!) Yes, three million. A thing which was two hundred. Now it has reached three million. You see now? (Ei!) The Bremen one, when I was about to build, a bag of cement was four Cedis. Six shillings. So when I was putting up the fence wall, when I was building the fence wall, a bag of cement was ten Cedis. I had finished the house and I was building the fence wall. Ten Cedis. Today, a bag of cement too, one bag, right now, one bag, four thousand, six hundred Cedis. So now, everything has gone up. Today, if you don't have big sum of money, doing work is difficult. When you buy few goods, it is a lot of money. (And when you began selling goods, who gave you money that you should go and sell?) When I began trading, for at that time, my husband was working at V.A.C, do you see? (Yes) When I began marriage, I was a girl who when I got married, my husband was working at V.A.C. So, he opened some of the passbook for me, for two hundred. And I did the work, the work like that. For when I did the store work, I got money and I again arranged goods at the market in addition. So when I go to work, I go to take some of the goods from the store and I bring some to the market. Do you see? And my child was there and she was looking after them and I also go to the store. So every time, when I get goods, then I bring them.)

and the child too is taking care of them. (Yes. What goods do you sell? Cloths?) Cloths. (Only cloths) Cloths only. When I started life, only cloths have I been selling up to today. When I was a young woman all the time, only cloths have I been selling up to this time. (Were you selling cloths before you married?) Yes, when I got married, I started to sell cloths. (Before that, what were you selling?) What do you say? (Before you got married -) (Before you were about to marry, she means that when you were a young woman, what were you selling?) When I was a young woman, at that time, my mother died early. So when my mother died, I was staying with my senior mother (ie, mother's senior sister). So we were going to the farm. (In town here or Mampong?) Mampong, Mampong. (Ashanti Mampong?) Ashanti Mampong. We were going to the farm. I was going to the farm with the mother all the time. So when we go to the farm, when we go to bring food, when we eat some, maybe we take some to the market to sell. Do you see? When we take some to the market, we go to sell it. And it means that we eat some too. Little by little like that until somebody came to marry me, and he took me to Konongo. For the man was a store keeper at Konongo. (Yes) So ~~he~~ married me, and took me to Konongo. So when we went there, then we started work, - when we went there, at that time, I was a child. So, he too, he was a young man, so sugar, at that time, they were weighing it in pounds, ~~and when you measure, it makes three tins (ie. the margarine tin).~~ So when we

weigh, it is six pence. (Yes) Yes, six pence, so when we weigh it like that, a pound for six pence. So when you fill it, it becomes three tins: so the three tins, you too can sell it at three pence, three pence. A tin for three pence and you too, for the six pence, you make three pence profit on it. (You have got nine pence) You have got nine pence and if you pay for it with six pence, then you get three pence profit. That thing gave me a capital. So every time, when we do it, and when I finish preparing food quickly, then I go to the store. For that when I go, I weigh some and I also sell it. When I finish preparing food, I sell it. I sold and kept the money bit by bit like that. So when we went there, I got five months and we were transferred to Kumasi here. (Is that so?) Then I had a little amount of money with me; about, I may take it to ~~be~~ four hundred Cedis. (Ei! It was four hundred Cedis) Yes. And that meant that I had money. (Today, it will be about forty thousand) A! (Yes) Yes. And I got four hundred and I kept it and it meant that I had a capital with which I was bringing to a big town. (This!) Yes. So when I was coming to start, when we first came here, I began with material; I was selling material all the time. I filled my shop with materials. I put them in a pan. At that time, we arranged them in a pan and put them there. Then you were selling; do you see? So there may be some, a yard would be six pence; the material. Calico, the calico; do



<sup>know</sup>  
 you, calico? (Calico) (O, is that so?) At that  
 time, a yard of that, maybe six pence. (Even me,  
 mother, I bought some before; ~~then~~ I was at  
 Roman Girls' School, we were buying a yard  
 of calico for two shillings.) Yes. (I used to  
 buy three yards for six shillings. Therefore when  
 I was going to school, I was given six pence  
 I used to spend five pence and saved a  
 penny. So when I put them together to make  
 six shillings, I used it to buy school  
 uniforms.) Yes, do you see? So little by  
 little like that. For I got a little amount of  
 money with me. So when I came here, to begin  
 the material business, when I went to a  
 store, there were some for one shilling a  
 yard, these were some for one shilling and  
 three pence a yard. When I got to buy, then  
 I come to arrange them in a pan and put it  
 there for sale. ~~I sold it~~ little by little like that  
 and my husband went to get a passbook for  
 me for two hundred Cedis. Then I added  
 cloth to the material. Maybe the cloth was better  
 than the material, for when you cut to sell,  
 sometimes when you cut, half a yard may be  
 left or a quarter of a yard and it becomes  
 useless. So I stopped the material and sold the  
 cloth. At that time, half of the cloth too, (i.e.  
 half piece of the cloth) sometimes, some, half was  
 how much? At that time, one pound, one  
 pound, Do you know that formerly one pound  
 was there? (Yes.) (One pound was ten Cedis.)  
 This, £, as for me at all, this money, I don't

know how to say it. Recently, I gave some to a mad person; this thing, (this thing, we were not using pounds.) No, we were not using pounds. (We were using this thing, this thing, the coins.) Yes, the coins and then this, 0 - (It was about five shilling) It was less than five shillings (~~was it~~ about two shillings and six pence?) Yes; two shillings and six pence. This, they were some paper, paper; it was one pound; it was not one pound paper. (note) (Three ten) (Ten shillings; we used to have ten shillings.) Yes. (We used to have one pound) One pound. And at that time when we go and bring it, maybe at the store, the piece maybe, some piece may be one pound and five shillings. So when we bring them and maybe, for the piece, some body add one shilling to it, then you accept it. And you too, when they buy for you, all your chop money you will give, is two shillings and six pence, do you see? (Yes) When you give two shillings and six pence, you will be able to eat the whole day. I cook three times with two shillings and six pence.) And that was bit by bit. For, later on, when I went to Kenongo, there at all, it was one shilling. At the end of the month, I was given thirty shillings. One shilling, he was giving me thirty shillings, so one day, I spent one shilling. Yet, when I did the marketing, I used to leave maybe, a penny and I saved it. When I put all together, I might buy a headkerchief with it. By the end of the month, when I had got thirty shillings,

I might have got money to buy a Handkerchief for one shilling and three pence. Little by little like that, we came to this town and sold the material until I stopped and now I am selling cloth. Do you see? At that time, the cloth, even the imported cloth from Europe, half piece was two pounds. Do you see? One pound, yes, one pound one pound, & two pounds, two one pound one pound; half piece. The whole piece (i.e. 12 yards) was four pounds at U.A.C. When you go, good quality European cloth, the whole piece was four pounds. So when you go to bring it and someone adds two shillings to it, then you give it to her. (That is, your profit is two shillings) Two shillings profit. The two shillings you will accept too, it can be enough for food. (Yes) And little by little like that, we did the work little by little like that. Later on, then came civilisation and I decided that I would find a place and put up a small house. If I am not there, the children may stay in it. So I went to acquire a land for two hundred; one hundred pounds at Borman. I was looking for a land at Mmaakuro. A friend with whom I was there, she said that if I would like some at their place, she would get some for me. And I said, "I like it" So everyday, when I go, she tells me that the one who allocates it is not there so I gave her one pound, one pound, this thing, this thing, this thing, 0, twenty; how much is two twenties? Forty (Forty Cedis) and I gave forty Cedis to her that she should take it. (And)



it was four shillings at that time.) No, ten pounds, ten pounds, ten pounds; this is, £, 0! let me see if there is any in this. The hundred (i.e. the hundred Cedi note.) No, it is not hundred. This, 0, this is hundred. (Yes) For, this — (hundred Cedis) Here is hundred Cedis (Yes) You will take from this thing, £, ten pounds, ten pounds, like this (Hundred Cedis like this, how much will you take?) Hundred Cedis like this, I will take this thing, £, pound £, (then, it doesn't matter) it means twenty (Yes) Twenty is how much? (Two shillings) No. (Twenty is twenty) Now. (Now?) ££, (Twenty is two shillings, we will ~~say~~ it as former two shillings) No, as for you, say it as two pence of today for me to see. (Twenty Cedis?) Yes. (What we use to buy water.) Forty. I gave forty to that person. (Yes) I gave him forty. So when I went on Sunday, they had finished marking out the land. He had marked out the land. I went to pay two hundred and they gave me the land. (Was it two hundred this thing, this thing — was it hundred pounds or two hundred pounds?) Hundred pounds. Hundred pounds like this, hundred pounds like this. (Like this, hundred pounds) (All right) Yes. So I bought the two, two hundred pounds like this. (Yes, two hundred pounds) I bought two. So when I began the house, they were building it little by little and cement was £, pound £, four Cedis and six shillings a bag. And I began the house immediately. So when they finished building it and they were about to build the fence wall,

the cement had gone up to ten Cedis. This thing bag (ie cement) four Cedis, 2, four Cedis, six shillings. And it has gone up to ten Cedis (Yes, they have increased the price a bit.) And it meant that they have increased it and we used it to finish building the wall. Do you see? So as for the past, every-thing was low. (Yes) As for today too, everything has gone up. And the work we do today too, formerly, income tax like this, one pound. Yes. One pound it was that I was looking for, one pound (One pound) When the month ends, this thing, income tax, one pound a year. (Yes) (Yes) As for today too, it has come that my big stall which is there, they don't look at the things in it. As long as it is big, whatever they like, they ask you to pay. (O!) Yes. And they ask you to pay whatever they like (Yes) Therefore, rather that of today and the former ones, there have been changes in it. Many changes have come into it.

Changes have come into it. For, as for the past, everything was low. Today too, everything is running; do you see? Everything is running. (And when you built the house, were they working like today?) E, about how it is sold and about how it is bought. Yes, today people buy. It is expensive, yet people buy. Yes. As for the past, how it was bought, because money was scarce, people were not able to buy it fast like that. (Was that so at first?) Yes. Goods were there in abundant. But there was even somebody who had no cloth to put on. For the goods were

plenty but he/she had no money. You would work hard before you get money to buy some. As for today, the goods are expensive, yet people are able to buy very much. ~~(Is that so?)~~ Yes. (People are able to buy more than ~~at~~ first.) Yes. (So when you were a young woman, were they buying cloth like today or they were not buying?) Yes, (Time which, time ~~that~~ you were a young woman.) When I was a young woman? (Were they buying, were they buying cloth like today?) No. Formerly, people could not buy. (Is that so?) Yes. But as for today, they buy more than at first, when I was a young woman. (So when you were a young woman, what did someone do to be able to sell?) The cloth? (That they were not buying much like today?) When they were not buying much, there may be someone at all you can give to on credit. Handkerchief for example, she would give to <sup>you</sup> on credit. Three pence each day; do you see? And everyday, she would come for three pence, three pence like that. Cloth too, maybe, one pound and five shillings or two pounds, and you will be able to pay maybe one shilling, one shilling each day. Do you see? (Were you yourself doing that?) Yes, you give it to people on credit. When they come, one day then she pays one shilling like that. And when the time is over, (i.e. she has finished paying for it) then the cloth becomes the property of that person. (So formerly, was money scarce?) It was very scarce. (Is that so?) Yes, money was scarce. (And why too, was money scarce. ~~How~~ somebody tells me)

that money ~~is~~ scarce. But formerly too, it was scarce.] And as for money, it is scarce (Where is money more scarce than ~~other~~ ~~place~~?) Formerly, there ~~was not~~ much money in the world. There was no money in the world. My senior mother for example, gave birth to twins. And she had to look for people to look after them. So this one pound, ~~one pound~~, two. Two pounds, two pounds. She took four children. Do you see? She took for children. She paid two pounds to her mother; if she paid two pounds to her mother, that meant that, at that time, two pounds, two pounds ~~four times~~. Four young women were looking after the children (Yes) Yes; as for one at all, (is one set of twins) she gave birth to them at home. She gave birth before later on she went (Is that so?) Yes. So money was scarce. Money was very difficult to get. There was no money. (True) Because somebody could buy a complete human being with two pounds. Their people had run into debt and the money was being demanded and they paid it with the children. When she brings you the money, before she comes for the money, this child will serve you like that until that the money she had taken had been returned to you. Yet she will let her (the child) serve like that until such time she will get the money to bring it. (Mm, if I were the one looking for a child to stay with, ) Yes; and I have some, (Yes) then I come to take money from you, two pounds, and I give you the child. )



So the child will serve like that until I will get ~~the~~ money and bring it to you. (Ei! Won't I let you keep the money; will I come and pay it?)

No, no, no; you will again pay. (So if it happens that you fail to get the money to bring it to me, will I keep the child?) Then she stays there. (And she stays there) She stays there like that.

(Then your mother has a little amount of money, that she gives it as a loan like that) Yes, she had money. (What did she do that she got money?) She has said it. She, she was selling goods, my mother. (Yes) Yes, she was selling goods. When I grew up a little I realised that she was selling salt, and pepper and little, little things and this thing, tobacco and sugar and other things including sardines.

At that time, sardine was three pence (It has become Nigeria trading) Yes. Sardine was three pence, corned beef six pence, corned beef, eight pence. Tin cups, four pence. For,

she was selling little little things like that; so she had money there. She took four children, two pounds, two pounds (So at Mampong, what work, at that time, what work was there that you would get a lot of money like your mother's?) E, sometimes,

as for my mother, she was trading, do you see? Also, she was farming in addition. You see: Like yam, she was a big yam grower. (Is that so?) Yes. So when she harvested them, at that time, a certain District Commissioner was there. It is said he weighed this thing (the yams) so when they weighed,



them, when they harvested the yams from the farm, this thing was there; what they use to weigh.

(Scale) Yes, and they came to put them on it.

So when they weigh, as many as it will take is five shillings. (Is that so?) Yes. Five shillings. They

weigh; they put them on it like that and when he weighs, and where the pointer will reach, will cost five shillings. Maybe, the head load of

yams of my mother and me, are two baskets full. (Ei! then there is money in it.) She

says there is money in it. Today, today, even one is thousand Cedis. Today. There was no money in it (ie it was not profitable). At that time,

we were working for nothing. At that time too, by-day, (ie employing a labourer to work in a farm for a day) when you go with him to the farm, if you take someone who will go, it was six pence. (Yes)

When you take a labourer to the farm for a day, he will charge six pence. (So if you are in the

North, (ie Northern Ghana) can you make a very large farm?) Yes, you can make the farm very

large. And having down the yam, then you harvest to sell. When you harvest to sell too,

you will get money. (So at that time, Mampong or Konongo, where was there much money?)

Konongo too, there, as for there, every town has a job that they do. Yes. Konongo, from Konongo

to Agogo, do you see, plantain and cocoa are also there. Do you see? And as for Mampong,

yam and beans, (Yes) they grow beans over there; and onions. (and onions?) Yes; they

work on that over there. (Such farms make money?)

Yes; they too get money from it. And Konongo too, plantain and cocoa, and from Konongo and Agogo going; do you see? And Patransa and all these places; the ~~area~~ there, it ~~is~~ plantain and cocoa; that too, is their work. And it makes them too, get money there. (So Mampong and Konongo, which place is better for you?) Konongo and Mampong? (Yes) Then, my town will be better for me. (Your town, your town, Mampong?) Yes, it is Mampong. As for there, it is my town (Yes) As for Konongo, I went to stay there; work sent us there (Yes) Yes. And we left there too to Kumasi here. (Yes) (And are you happy that you have come to Kumasi or you like to stay at Konongo or Mampong?) Yes, as for Kumasi here, I like it ~~better~~ than Mampong and Konongo. (Is that so?) Yes (Why?) Here is a big town. (Yes) Over here, ~~when~~ you work at all and you are honest, if even you don't have money, someone with money will go to take the goods and bring them to you. (Yes) When you also sell, you ~~will~~ get ~~some~~ to buy something to eat. (Yes) And as for a village, when you stay, nobody will go and take anything and bring to you to sell, unless you yourself work with your money. (In Kumasi, is the work easy?) Yes; the work over here is easy. If you are honest, if you will tell the truth to people, the work is easy. Recently for ~~example~~, a friend of mine, they were at Yendi. When the fighting took place, she had <sup>to</sup> come. The other day for example, she went to bring ~~some~~ goods costing two million Cedis. (Mrs. Cloth?) Cloth. (Ei! You thank her.) For, when

she came, she could not get a good place to stay, so when she went to take, she brought them to me. Two million, she brought them to me. (Is that so?) Yes; I didn't bring money ~~but~~ was selling. When I finished selling, then I gave her money to her. Do you see? And at Mampong, you won't get someone to bring such to you for you also to sell. Do you see? And at Kenonze too, you won't get someone to go and bring you that for you to sell. So as for a big town, you will get someone to go and bring it, and you also sell and you too get some to buy food to eat. (Yes, you will get some even to build a house) To build a house. Yes, really, you will get some to build a house. If you are only honest, you will get some to build house. (Yes) (Is there somebody who is not honest?) Yes, there is someone too who is not honest. When the person gives to her right now, when she sells it, she spends the money and the person too, incur a debt. (Yes) Yes. (So the people with whom you began to sell cloth in Kumasi here, have many built houses?) Some have built houses, some too could not build houses. (And what do you do that it will give you profit that will enable you to build a house?) Because you have seen, there may be someone who had an aim that whatever happens, I would like to do this, do you see? So even meals that she will eat, she will reduce it; do you see? If you should buy maybe ~~sitting for~~, you can buy for two, two hundred, and you save two hundred.)

because you want to do something. You save little by little like that. So when you realise that you <sup>have</sup> saved enough, then you look for something to do. And if it is a house that you will use it to build, then you build. Do you see? And there may be someone too, she will sell the thing, do you see? (Yes) She will get money. Every time, when she sees this, she wants it. She will not be able to build a house.

(Yes) Do you see? And if you sit down quietly and humble yourself, and you realise that the glasses which are there, I would like to do, to ~~buy~~. You will do it little by little like that; God will enable you to buy. Also, there may be someone, when she sees a headkerchief, she wants it; she sees this cloth, she wants it; when she sees this pair of shoes, she wants it. Do you see; every time, you are wasting the money carelessly. In that way, you cannot build a house. There may be someone too, food, she will eat. Any nice food, she will eat it like that. She will not use the money to do anything. Why?

Someone with whom we were in the market for example, she had a lot of money. The money, when she comes to the market, she ties it to her ~~wrist~~ like that. It was in a ~~belt~~ and she had tied it round her, when all of us were acquiring land, at our section at the market. Many people have houses. (Is that so?) Yes. But she too, she didn't look for some; do you see? The money was tied to her wrist like that and she was coming to and fro at the market like that.)

So when it happened that we were exchanging the money, all of it became useless. (ou!) She too, she didn't acquire land with it, and she didn't do anything with it. Now, even a stall too, do you see, a stall, she could not buy a stall. She didn't have a stall. She was staying in someone's stall. Do you see? And she did not realise that the money was there, she would use it to buy even a stall to stay in it. She didn't buy, she didn't build a house. The money was at her waist, a lot of it. When she was coming to the market, she tied it so big ~~at~~ her waist like that. Now, all is finished. Today, she doesn't have a penny. Now, she cannot even stay at the market. Now, she is at home. (Yes) Yes. (ou!) Do you see? So everyone has an aim in her mind. There is someone, when she receives treatment, she would like to work. I will get something from it and in future when I become an old woman at all, — do you see? You can build a house. Even if I become an old woman at all, I will sleep in my room. Do you see? (Yes). There is someone too who doesn't care. Whether she will grow or not, it is no problem to her. She will use her money roughly like that. So by the time she will be an old woman, and when she should be in this town, then she goes to her town; do you see? She cannot stay here again. For she won't get money to rent a room. You are an old woman. If you cannot work, then you go to



your town. (And as for you, don't you like to go to your town?) NO, as for me, I don't like to go. When I finish growing and I die, I would like that ~~all my~~ children should stay here. Do you see? That is why I would like to sweat like that to build a house (i.e. work hard to put up a house) Even when I die, then the children will be here. (Yes, you have done very well.) (You have done well. As for your sister, Yaa Akyiaa, she didn't do that.) As for her, she is not good at all. She didn't do well. (As for her, she even didn't think about it. She didn't think about it. As for her, she has also sold property in addition.) She is not good at all. (If she had built a house, she would have sold it. Her child would have made her to sell it.) She would have sold it. (And now, if someone sells cloth like you, can she build a house?) Now that she has become an old woman like me? (Or if someone, someone is at the market now, and maybe she is like your child. Can she make profit to build?) Yes, she can make it to build. (Is that so?) Yes. If that person wants to build by all means, she can make it gradually like that. She will build it. (Yes) Yes. (So now, people, many traders build houses like at first?) E, the traders? (Yes, do they build houses like at first?) As for now, traders, they build houses (Yes) (Is that so?) Now, they build houses more than the past. (Is that so?) Yes. For formerly, today, now, where at Bremen, where I am, mother, a place where when I go, I make a farm; I was really

farming. When I went, I got land. So in the morning, before I come to the market, at seven o'clock, I was at the farm. I work like that. So at seven thirty, (7.30) I come ~~from the farm~~ and come to the market. (Is that so?) Now, all that place has become a town: Do you see; it goes for about a mile and half. A farm, do you see; so now, houses have been put up over all that place. Houses have been put up all over there. Houses have been put up all over there. The land costs three million Ledis, yet people buy it. It goes very far. Do you see? They go to buy. They build. For, if you are in a big town, do you see, (yes) you would like to stay in a big town. If you have no house there, do you see? In future, the land lord/lady will tell you that my child is in Europe or America; do you see? (yes) he/she is coming, so I am taking my room from you. (yes) Do you see? He/she will take it from you. The one who is not taking it from you too, he/she will tell you to pay a certain amount of money. The amount of money which you will pay, you won't get it, and then, you move to your town. (He/she says, pay two billion) (yes) You say, there is none. So you will move to your town. It may be, you have not decided to go and stay in your town. When you stay in a big town like that and you move to your town, when you go, you become miserable; do you see? For, you don't have a farm over there; do you see? You don't have work to do over there. When you go to stay, who will give

you food to eat? There ~~is~~ you are not working; do you see? (Is that so?) Yes. You will be in difficulty like that; in a short time, then you die. Do you see? (Yes.) In a short time, you will die. Do you see? (Yes.) So, if you want to live in a big town, you make an effort like that and struggle to work; when you see that, as an old lady, you get maybe four, you will spend two and save two. (Yes) Little by little, little by little, little by little like that; you will be able to use it to build a house. If even one bedroom, you will be able to build. Do you see? So if you ~~are in~~ someone's house, he/she can tell you at any time, I am taking my room from you, and you too, you have yours, then you go. Do you see? Where I was at Mmororo, I was at Bantamahene's place. (Yes) Mmororo. It was there that I was living. So while I was there, I observed quietly and I said, I would build a house. I did it little by little like that ~~and~~, finished building the house, (Yes) my landlord didn't know anything about it. (Hmm! He didn't know that you have built a house?) No. I never let him know. (He will move you quickly) I did not let him know. When I finished building the house, one day in the morning, he called me that, "Ataa, come." When I went, he said, "Go to an African Bungalow to you", do you see that, because that place is an African Bungalow, he told me that, "Today, we will weed around all the house. Also, my room is at this place. I weed behind the house, I weed all the front part and sweep my part. He says, we will weed round the whole house and I said, as for )

me, I have finished weeding behind and the front of my room so those who are left too should weed theirs. He told me that it is his house. It is his house, so what he wants is what we will do. And I said, I have finished weeding mine, I cannot go and weed someone's portion for him/her. They are also living in them, they should also weed theirs. He said, then it is his own house so, if you do anything, if he likes it, he can remove me. I did not say anything. I had finished building it. I did not say anything. So I had finished doing it and had connected water and electricity to that place. (Ei! Then you did well). Yes.

(Ei!) He didn't know anything about it. So when I noticed his intention that he wanted to bother me, I told him that, that day was Thursday; I went there and told him that, father, I would like to leave here on Saturday; I move away. And he said "Why?" And I said. I have built a house.

(Behold!) That father couldn't sleep. (He was surprised) This father, if you live in that house, he estimates what you earn at the market. When you are there, suddenly he will come. He comes to check your work. So when I see him coming, I cover my head with a cloth and close my eyes. I don't let him see my stall. And I close my eyes. (Yes, and you sleep.) And when he looks at it and passes away, I look at him. He does this. He is looking for me and doesn't see me. He never found my section at the market. He is a person who —; he is very jealous. (Yes.)

So I didn't let him see anything. I told him that I would like to move and God willing, I am saying goodbye to him. I shall leave the house on Saturday. Then, do you know, he said, have you moved from here? Then he ~~asked~~ his children, ~~that~~ and this woman, she lived in this house, when did she build a house? When did she build a house? They said, we don't know. Then he calls my children ~~and asks~~, "Is your mother's house big?" And they said, "Yes." "Ei! When did she build?" And they said, she has built and has connected electricity to that place. "Even all of us," the children said, "Even all of us, everyone has his/her room there." He said, "Is that so? And Aaa has stayed in this house to build a house and she didn't tell me." (And if you tell him, will he help you?) What do you do for me? (He would have moved you quickly.) A! Then, (immediately) immediately, he said, then, the next day, he told me that, "I shall go to Kwaman." He too, he is from Nsuta Kwaman. "I shall go to Kwaman, and then, if you are going, the water bill has been brought. Light bill too, has been brought." Therefore his son, a young man, he is called Kofi Kodua, "When you are going, give the money to him." And I said, all right. The man could not stay to say goodbye. But the place where I was, that place was like an open space like this. So I was not going, the room was not big enough for me and the children and I, myself, built some in



in addition. When I built, this man did not ask me how much I spent. Then, when I built it, he rented it to me in addition to the other one. (Aa! you should have used it to pay off the amount you spent in building it) You think so! (You have even helped him) Aa. ~~As~~ soon as I finished building it, he rented it to me (And it became a debt to you) It became a debt to me. All the money I used to build became a debt to me. He again rented the ~~room~~ I built to me. (Oh!) And I said, and for me to stay in somebody's, and it gave me an idea to look for land to build some (to build your own) You see? So when I moved, he has taken the room free. And he rented it to me also, and he rented it to me. He could not stay to see me off at all. When we went home, he never came there. He never stepped there. His wife too never came there. Do you see? And I moved and went away. So when you are in a big town and you want to stay, you have to be wise that you want to do something (Yes) You see? Little by little, if God helps and you get a little and you do it, you finish building it, and the house owner says, give me my room, then, you turn his thing over to him, and you also go into yours. Do you see? And if you don't do that, while you are there, he will move you to go away. When the man started to do certain things, if I didn't have some, if I didn't have some, he would have

worried me very much. He says that as for him, he has paid money to the court. ~~If~~ he takes you there today, the next day, you are in prison. (Yes) He used to remove people from the house any time (Yes) Yes. As for Yaa Akyiaa, she has come to stay there and has got a stall, and she is joking. Now, today I will remove you, bring two million. (Yes) ~~For~~ my money is ~~not~~ much; when she goes to bring it, she brings it to me on credit, because you have a stall in which you stay free of charge. Have you seen that she has brought it to me on credit? She knows that I also pay for it. (Yes. If you have a stall then she knows that you have a stall. Even when you go, ~~the~~ stall is there.) (Yes) (Yes. When it becomes critical at all, she can say the owner of this stall owes me. We shall look for you and bring you.) Yes. (Yes. And if you don't have a stall, who is giving it to you to take it away? (Nobody will give it to you, because you walk about. You carry the things at the market like that; she doesn't know you.) She doesn't know you. (So when she gives it to you, you won't bring it.) As for Yaa Akyiaa, she didn't do well. She didn't do well at all. (When you started at the market, was it difficult in the stall like today?) The stall? (Yes) The stalls were not scarce at all. (What do you do to get it?) Stalls, they were not scarce. For, if you want some right now, you will get it. Someone, she has some. If she cannot be in it, she can say that, you take it and stay in it. Do you see? )

(Is that so?) Yes. And if you are looking at the market, where we stay, in the middle there like that; they themselves brought us to stay there. That place was a road. For that place was a road and they brought us to stay there, and that place became stalls. Do you see? And this big one, I was in the market and we were paying two shillings and sixpence, 0, stall money. Two shillings and sixpence were we paying. Stalls were not scarce. I for example, the plantain section, plantain section for today, I had two stalls. I occupied it for a long time and I went out of it and left it there. I was selling cooking oil and other things. I got out of it and left it there. For nobody found it necessary. The stall was not necessary, do you see? (Nobody knew that today it will become a property). So you stay in it and after some time later, I got out of it and left it there. Today for example, when I go to do marketing and I see the stall, I say, you look. Formerly, we were very stupid. (That is why it is called stupidity time.) Yes, so at that time, if I had kept it and paid for it, at this time, it would have been mine. I got out of it and left it there. Today, somebody has filled it with material and this thing, and has made it a store, selling shoes in it nicely. When I reach there, then I say, you look at it. So as for the past, people were not civilized; the stalls were not scarce. As for today too, you won't get some. Even today, when you are in somebody's, she will move you right.

now. (Yes) Yes. When they raised them up, people have become interested in them very much.

So if you are in somebody's, she comes for it. (Yes) Yes. If you don't have your own, they will take it from you right now. (If it was like today, you would have taken very many)

I say (i.e. it is true) (and you would be selling them two million, two million) As I am saying that two, did they get out of them and left them behind, is a true story. For the thing, nobody knew that it would be like this. (And people were not very many like today.) Today,

for example, when I went to take "birisi", a type of black cloth, at the market where materials are sold, going down to the section of the market where reduced items are sold. (Yes)

My friend with whom I went to take the "birisi" has a stall there. That person bought the stall for four hundred Cedis. Four hundred Cedis, two, this thing, four hundred Cedis (Yes) Do you see?

It is less than this thing, what I used two<sup>to</sup> buy the two plots of land, four hundred Cedis.

She has made it nicely. So when we went, she said, this stall is mine. (Oh!) The owner of the stall at all, I don't see her, and I said, you are seeing her for what? You have finished selling it; is it yours? And she said, You you look at it. Now, today, even two millions she will get it, but she sold it for four hundred. At that time, four hundred Cedis too, was money which had value. (Yes) Yes and it had value. (Now, it has no value.) No.



(You were saying that, at that time, when you went to stay at home, and what happened at the market that you went to stay at home?) O, at that time, when Rawlings came to power, he destroyed the business. For when you sell, they arrest you. They said that they would not let us bring the goods to the market and I stopped. For we stopped; the business collapsed and everybody went to stay at home. For you could not bring that thing to sell; cloth and poplin goods should not be brought to the market, so it was necessary that I stay at home. Therefore I went to buy fridge, deep freezer type and put it at the market and connect water pipe to the stall. Was the pipe there when you were here? (Yes, yes, the pipe was there.) When she came there, the pipe was in my room. That meant that I was selling water. I sold iced water too. At that time even, I didn't get ~~someone~~ to buy. I didn't get someone to buy. (Aa! nobody buys it?) Penny, yet they were not bought. For, people were not passing there that they might buy. So at times some children came and carried some around to sell. (So the goods that were in the stall when you went to stay at home, what did you do with them?) At the control price time, they sold all our goods at the control price (Aa! Did they come to sell them at control price?) Yes. (Yes.) (So all got finished?) They got finished. (All right.) (Then you incurred a debt.) Look! And we had to go and stay at home. All the money was lost and.)



we had to go and stay at home. I went to buy this thing, the fridge, and came to put it in the room. And I sold the water little by little like that, in order that I might not stay at home to have children (So you, you, when the time came for you to stay at home, was it then that one of your children came to take the stall?) & my child, at that time, all of us were at home. (Yes) Yes. At that time, did you see that she was selling powder? (Yes) She also, went to stay at home. All hers, all her things too were sold, from there, we had nothing. We went to stay at home. (About how many years, did you stay at home like that?) O, for, at that time, it seems to me that we came to stay at home about two years. (Is that so?) Yes. (It was very difficult) (And what has made it a little better that you have been able to come again?) That I have come back? As for now, everything has become normal and they say that everyone should do his/her work and all of us came back. (And it means that you went back to raise loan again to begin the work?) Yes ~~if~~ you have money. Because you don't have money, we again went to find another loan. (Please, where did you get some from?) What do you say? (The money) The loan, my sister who comes after me, (Yes) she was in Fante area, Cape Coast, <sup>she</sup> gave me a little money and I started again with it gradually. (Yes, you have suffered) Yes. Is it twelve o'clock? Is it twelve? (It had remained a little to twelve. So, do you want to go?) Yes.)

I am going to shop for the children to come and take it home. (You would like to go, you see?) (All right, then I thank you very much) (I thank you very much; you have done well) (Will you eat before —) What do you say? (Will you eat before you go?) No, as for this, I won't eat before I go. (She says, will you eat before you go?) (You said, you would go to V.A.C.) (I mean, do you still take cloth from V.A.C.?) Yes, I take it. (Yes) So, I even owe them; the goods I collected in the month, I travelled. The other day, you came there, I went to a meeting somewhere. It was then that we had come, so it was this morning that I went to pay my debt. So I made it quickly that I was going early and come; perhaps, you may come and fail to meet me. (Yes) So when I came from there, she was sitting there waiting for me. (I was saying that many people stopped V.A.C. business) They cancelled many passbooks. (As for you, you have done well that you did not stop) (And did you go with your old book?) Yes. For the old book, when I did the work, I never withdrew some of the commission. When I did the work, I did not withdraw it so when you go to show it to them, then you begin to work. (Yes) (And you have done well very much.) Yes (So do they give you Ghanaian goods?) Ghanaian goods? (They are A.T.L) and, (I.T.L) Yes, and G.T.P (G.T.P?) Yes (Ei! Then you are very lucky) Now, even in Europe or America, they are bringing some. European or American cloth are in the store.)

(All right) (Are there any in the store?) Yes. There are some at U.A.C. (And do you take some?) Yes, I take some. When I go and there are some that are nice to me, then I go to take some. (Yes) (That too, do they give you commission like the first one?) As for today, the commission is rather small. For today, if you don't write for one million, they don't give you commission. If you write for one million too, your commission is five thousand. (When you write for one million, your commission is five thousand) Five thousand. Yes. (Oh! And if you don't take it?) What do you say? (And it is too small) It is very, very, small. (And if you don't accept it?) Yes? (And you say, you wait; will you take some?) E, (The commission type.) (You won't take; won't you take one million goods, to get the commission?) If I do, even me, sometimes, now, maybe I can work for four million a month. (Yes) (Is that 30? Oh-) I can do it. (We thank God) That is it. This month for example, I have written for goods worth about four million. (Yes) So, it is not that, for if you have money, and you go to the store, you don't buy some; they won't let you buy. There, they don't sell to ~~teachers~~ cash. (Yes, you go to get the goods to come and sell) Yes. So when you sell, you will increase the price (And you put some on it (i.e. you increase the price) so you will get your profit and commission in addition.) Yes (All right. Then it is good.) Yes (Yes) So when you go,

you will get some. Do you see? The goods, if an ordinary person from outside goes, they don't sell, they don't sell at the store, except you use a passbook. (Yes, I have understood.) If you use a passbook to buy, then when you go, you will get a little to put on it. (It was your sister who had a passbook at PZ.) Yes, yes. (She had one.) Do you know that the P.Z. manager who is there is my child? (Is that so, you see?) The one who is there now is my child; he is my senior child. (Yes) - Yes. He is my senior child. He is at P.Z. right now. (And won't you get that for P.Z.?) No, now, they don't deal in cloth again. Now, drugs, powder and other things do they sell. (As for this, you have done well.) (You have been trading for a long time and everybody knows) Yes, everybody knows me. Everybody knows me very well. Now, at the market, the place where we are selling things, (yes) all those who are there, everyone came to meet me there. (Yes) Yes. Those in the big and small stalls, they all came to meet me in that area. (Then, they should have made you queen.) That is what every woman there says, but I don't like it, mother. Everyone has what he/she likes, do you see? As for me, I don't like ~~the~~ thing, big, big show. Many people will see; I don't like it. (Is that so?) All those who are there came to meet me in that area. (Yes) At that time when I was in that area, I was a young woman. I have stayed there for a very long

time. Therefore those who are there, all of them came to meet me at my area. (Yes) Those in the big stall and all the small stalls behind there and the front there, all of them came to meet me at that area. But I don't like it. Though they say that queen, they say I am, and I say, as for me, I don't like it. As for me, I like what is in the Lord more than worldly things. (Yes) (It is very good; and nobody mentions your name) (i.e. talk about you) Yes. (Yes, I saw that the lady who is the queen is quite young.) Yes (She is not as old as you.) Even, it has not been a long time when she came to stay there at all. It has not been a long time since she came there at all. (Is that so?) Formerly, she used <sup>to</sup> carry goods on her head to sell. She carried goods like that, hawking. When she got tired, then she would come and sit by someone, and somebody gave her the stall to buy and when she came, they have made her the queen. As for Kumasi people, when they come, they push the thing on you; they don't like it. Anyone who has been at the market for a long time, doesn't like anything. For, you will bother her with it. One day, you may be doing something, then they say, the queen should come here and you walk about. I too, I have no time for it. (There may be someone who likes big big things) I don't like that at all. (There may be somebody who finds it nice to be a queen. That she is the



queen, makes her happy.) Yes, as for this one, when she is coming, she will be doing this and she feels happy. And she is happy. As for me, I don't like it. (When I was in Kumasi at first, was she a queen?) No. At first, when you were here, she was not a queen. (Was there someone who was a queen?) Yes, there was someone. (Was there somebody?) Yes, there was somebody before, and she, after that one was removed and she too became queen. (Yes) She is called Yaa Mansa (Yes) As for me, I don't like it. I don't like to be any queen. I like to stay somewhere like this. Then, mother, remove it that I may go away. (All right) I would like to go and buy things at the market. I thank you very much.