

Sie Kwabena Manje Katoo, Banda-Ahenkro¹

Members of Sie Kwabena Manje Katoo came from Kakala at the time of Kralongɔ. Their ancestor was a fetish priest whose fetish had led the Nafanas. It was the fetish in this family's possession, named Danluwi, who led the people from Kakala to this place. In times of war, it was the fetish Danluwi that led them. The fetish is so powerful that it will never pass through a place where there is danger. When the Nafanas moved from Bui down to Ahenkro, it was the Danluwi fetish that stopped here and indicated that Ahenkro was a suitable place to stay. It was based on the word of the fetish, then, that the Nafanas chose to stay at Ahenkro.

The Sie Kwabena Manje Katoo is responsible for distributing gunpowder during times of war. Men come to this house to obtain their gunpowder at such times.

The fetish is still with the family and is always in the charge of the head of house. Currently there is no fetish priest; however, there was a priest during the lifetime of the present head of house, Kwame Donkor. The fetish is offered a goat once every year. Formerly this was accompanied by a dance to reveal possible misfortunes that might befall the town. Today this is not done because there is no fetish priest.

Taboos associated with the fetish are that the wood from the *jinge* and *chiya* trees may not be used as firewood in this house. This is because it is the roots of these trees that assist the fetish in healing. Additionally, no woman may enter the room of the fetish during her period of menstruation. The fetish possesses the power to heal sicknesses. As an example, if an unconscious person is washed with water from the fetish, he will regain consciousness. This type of treatment does not require a sacrifice to the fetish; however, in the case that the fetish reveals a misfortune that will befall the town, the fetish will indicate the kinds of animals that should be offered to stave off the misfortune.

Male Heads of Family

1. Kwabena Manje
2. Bahaba
3. Sienyon Gbolulu
4. Obaa Kofi
5. Dembe Dembe
6. Kwaku Banda
7. Kwame Donkor (head in 1986)

Female Heads of Family

1. Nyinangɔ Manje
2. Nyinangɔ Kasaa
3. Adwoa Donkor
4. Yaa Yeli

Interview conducted on 7 August, 1986 with Kwame Donkor, Head of family.

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

¹ The content of this work remains the intellectual property of the family who shared their

knowledge. This information may be cited but may not be used for commercial purposes. To cite this work:

Stahl, Ann, and James Anane. 2011. Sie Kwabena Manje Kato, Banda-Ahenkro. In, *Family Histories from the Banda Traditional Area, Brong-Ahafo Region, Ghana, 1986*, pg. 38. Brochure circulated 1989, reissued with photos and additional histories in 2011.