

*ngu bomo di, seeku har a se*  
 3RflSg head Def, Sékou say 3Sg Dat

his own head. Sékou had told him

(This seems to be a report of an earlier dialogue between Sékou and Amadou)

*'kow čitaab di beene ni bomo di,' a har a se*  
 'take-off book Def on-top 2Sg head Def,' 3SgS say 3Sg Dat  
 'take your head from off the top of the book.' He (=Amadou) had said to him

*kaa ngu bomo di nga nda čitaab di kul*  
 that LogoSg head Def 3SgF and book Def all  
 that his (own) head, it (=head) and the Koran were

*čj a-foo, parce que haya kul kaa goo čitaab di kuna,*  
 be Absol-one, because thing all Rel be book Def in,  
 one and the same, because everything which was (written) in the Koran,

*a goo ngu bomo di ra, a har a se*  
 3SgS be LogoSg head Def Loc, 3SgS say 3Sg Dat  
 it was (also) in his head. He (=Sékou?) said to him (=father)  
 (i.e., Amadou claims that he has memorized the Koranic text and has thus become  
 mystically consubstantial with the tome)

*kaa aywa bari di kaa bari di kaa i koy*  
 Rel well, horse Def come horse Def come 3PlS go  
 that, well, the horse had come, the horse had come. They (=Sékou and father) went

*i feer ga i fuoney, nga wane dangaa di woo*  
 3PlS open 3SgO 3PlS search, 3SgF Poss saddlebag Def Dem  
 They untied it (=saddlebag) and they searched. This saddlebag of his (=Amadou's)

*kaa goo jere di yo beene, i gar a kuna*  
 Rel be side Def Pl on-top, 3PlS find 3Sg in  
 which was up on the (horse's) sides, they found in it  
 (long 'saddlebag' NP including relative clause is a preposed topic NP)

*tira di kaa aamadu bun, ngu maabe di bun*  
 amulet Def that Amadou die, LogoSg griot Def die  
 the amulet (indicating) that Amadou had died; (first) his griot had died,  
 ('amulet' is treated as a message from Amadou, hence logophoric possessor in *ngu*  
*maabe di* coindexed with Amadou; /aamadu bun/ is chronologically out of order and  
 the narrator will repair this)

*woo di banda aamadu kaa ta bun, bari di kaa,*  
 Dem Def behind Amadou come Inf die, horse Def come,  
 (and) Amadou had died after that. The horse came (as a messenger).  
 (*kaa ta* ... 'come and ...' often used to indicate a brief lapse of time §9.7.7)