

Ambrose Massaquoi

DONKEY BLUES

(Voice of a Sierra Leonean cart pusher in the Gambia)

I rap forage razed
By my donkeywork
Mean, rap forage razed
By my donkeywork
In sand tethered to Sun in the Gambia
Rapping forage razed
By my donkeywork.

I dance my tail to
Tunes of my torment
Thrum of flies groove my yaws in the Gambia
Dancing my tail to
Tunes of my torment.
I stomp my hinds bruised
By my slave shackles
Umph, hoof my hinds bruised
By my slave shackles
Lays of fleas pulse my wounds in the Gambia
Stomping my hinds bruised
By my slave shackles.

I blow my bugle
Burst by my burdens
Yeah, blow my bugle
Burst by my burdens.

23/8/93—Farafinni, Gambia