

Ranpono

Haitian Creole – English Poetic Translation

[Yele maoulo!]

**Kòn lanbi yo sonnen,
Kòk yo poko chante,
Solèy poko leve,
Travayè yo kanpe!**

**Ranpono derape!
Travayè, an nou met men,
An nou pote kole,
Travay la kòmanse!**

**Piti, piti, zwazo fè nich li.
Frè mwen yo, sè mwen yo,
Pote kole an'n avanse.**

**Tèt ansanm, an amoni,
N'ava rive wè lonbrit foumi.
Avèk pèseverans, n'ava wè lonbrit foumi.
Chay la soti sou tèt, men li tonbe sou zepòl.**

Piti, piti, zwazo fè nich li.

[Yele maoulo!]

**Pedi tan pa ladan'l.
Fò nou travay jodia pou'n rekòlte demen.**

Travay lage!

**Solèy ape kouche,
Travayè yo lage,
Travay la byen fini.
Ranpono se la vi.**

**Wi, tout bon vre, Ranpono se la vi!
Men anpil chay pa lou.**

-Gabriel T. Guillaume
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[Yele maoulo!]

*The conch shells are sounding,
The roosters haven't crowed yet,
The sun hasn't risen yet,
The workers are on their feet!*

*Ranpono has begun!
Laborers, let's put our hands together,
Let's join together,
The work has begun!*

Little by little, the bird makes its nest.
My brothers, my sisters,
Join together, let's move forward!*

*Heads together, in harmony,
We will come to see the navel of an ant.
With perseverance, we will see the navel of an ant.*
The load that you bear on your head falls on your
shoulders.**

Little by little, the bird makes its nests.

[Yele maoulo!]

*Wasting time is not part of the game.
We must work today to harvest tomorrow.*

Work is over!

*The sun is setting,
The workers are dismissed,
A job well done.
Ranpono brings life.*

*Truly indeed, Ranpono brings life!
With many hands the load is light.**

*Haitian proverbs

Ranpono: grouping of peasants to execute community activities such as preparing soil for planting, harvesting, road constructions, and constructions of family homes and public buildings. It's also a time for sharing and mutual aid, all accompanied by appropriate music to arouse the enthusiasm of the workers.

Ranpono is part of a system known as "Konbit" which describes the lifestyle of the Haitian countrymen.

#ranpono