DIPLOMASI – Diplomacy

Haitian Creole to English – Poetic Translation

I. ONÈ – RESPÈ	**I. HONOR and RESPECT**
Mwen salwe ou, zanmi,	I salute you, my friend,
Nan mitan gro l'onè.	With the utmost honor.
W a reponn mwen, tanpri,	You shall answer me, please,
Avèk anpil respè.	With the utmost respect.
Nan lakou moun de byen	In the homes of good people
Se konsa sa pase… Onè – Respè!	That is how it's done… Honor and Respect!
Ou gen respè pou mwen, mwen bay l'onè pou ou;	You show respect for me, I give honor to you;
N a va chita koze tankou de moun damou.	We shall sit and chat like two lovebirds.
"Bonjou mesye, bonjou madanm."	"Good day, sir. Good day, madam."
Sa se lizay nan peyi pa m.	These are good manners in my country.
Nanpwen joure, nanpwen batay;	There is no cursing, there is no fighting;
Manke dega se deblozay.	Coarseness is uproar.
Ou resevwa m ak tout kè ou,	You welcome me with open heart,
Ak tout kè mwen mwen vini tou.	I shall enter with all my heart.
Onè – Respè, sa se lizay;	Honor and Respect, that is the way;
Diplomasi, se bon bagay!	Diplomacy, that is the key!
II. KOUTE – TANDE	**II. HEAR and LISTEN**
Je gade toupatou, je pa wè tout bagay.	We look, but we do not see everything.
Bouch manje tout manje, bouch pa di tout pawòl.	We speak, but we don't say it all.
Zòrèy ki koute, se zòrèy ki tande;	Those who have ears, may they listen;
Koute se yonn, tande se yon lòt.	Hearing is one thing, listening is another.
Ou bezwen tande byen,	To listen well,
Se p ou koute byen.	We must hear well.
Ou pale, mwen koute.	When you speak, I will hear.
Mwen koute, mwen tande.	I will hear, and I will listen.
Mezanmi: Koute - Tande.	Friends: Hear and Listen.
Anvan ou tonbe pale,	Before you begin to speak,
Koute - Tande.	Hear, and Listen.
III. MEN ALE – MEN VINI	**III. GIVE and TAKE**
Men ale - Men vini, sa kenbe lamitye.	A little Give and Take upholds a friendship.
Ou gen kabann pou vann,	You have beds to sell,
Mwen gen dra pou achte.	I have beddings to buy.
Vwazinay se fanmi,	Neighbors are family,
Bon kont fè bon zanmi.	Good riddles make good friends.
Kouto mèt byen file, li pa grate manch li.	The knife may be sharp, it never scrapes its handle.
Moun ki konn pataje pap janm mouri grangou.	Those who always share never die of hunger.
Vive la Diplomatie! Vive la Fraternité!	Long lives Diplomacy! Long lives Fraternity!
Gabriel T. Guillaume *Fevriye 2009*	