Fèt Chanpèt

(Haitian Creole – English Poetic Translation)

"Beng, beng, beng", mwen tande "beng", **Klòch la sonnen "beng"!** **Me mwa Jiyè fè "beng" nan dènye almanak!**	"*Beng, beng, beng*" — I hear it ring, The bell rings — "*beng*"! July strikes "*beng*" through every almanac!
Tout timoun delivre, pwofesè kraze rak, **Nan tout kwen peyi-a, dènye lekòl lage!**	Children are free, teachers are dead tired, In every corner of the country, school is out!
Tout pèleren pare; se sezon Fèt Chanpèt! **Banbòch la kòmanse, toupatou se bèl fèt!**	Pilgrims are ready; it's Fèt Chanpèt season at last! The feast has begun, celebrations everywhere!
Anpil moun debake nan Lakou Migonga; **Poul, kòdenn ak kanna fè ribanbèl nan lakou-a.**	They arrive in droves at *Lakou Migonga, Chickens, turkeys and ducks whirl through the yard.
Papa ak gran papa, frè ak sè reyini, **Vwazinay ak zanmi, nou tout f on sèl fanmi.** **Wi, tout sa se lizay nan Peyi d'Ayiti.**	Fathers and grandfathers, sisters and brothers together, Neighbors and friends — all as one family. Yes, these are the cherished customs of Haiti.
Labapen, pitimi, kann kale fè kenken, **Mango ak zaboka tonbe tout lajounen.**	Breadfruit, millet, peeled sugarcane pass from hand to hand, Mangos and avocados tumble all day long.
Lavèy, se boule bwa, **Demen, se mès dizè.** **Tout moun ap selebre:** **Viv La Sen Jak Majè!**	On the eve, wood fires crackle, Tomorrow, the ten o'clock Mass. Everyone celebrates: Cheers to Saint James the Great!
Ala yon bèl epòk, **Se la jwa, se la fèt!** **Apre La Plèndinò, se tou pa Limonad.** **Se sezon Fèt Chanpèt!** **Nou tout n ape chante,** **N ap rele: "Beng, beng, beng"!** **An nou fete jouk sa kaba!**	What a beautiful season, Nothing but joy, nothing but celebration! After Plaine-du-Nord, it's Limonade's turn. It's Fèt Chanpèt season! We're all singing, All cheering: "*Beng, beng, beng!*" Let's celebrate until the very end!
Me mwa Jiyè fè "beng" nan dènye almanak! **Se Fèt Chanpèt! Nanpwen konsa!**	July strikes "*beng*" through every almanac! It's Fèt Chanpèt! There's none like it!
-Gabriel T. Guillaume *Juin 2010*	

Fèt Chanpèt is a festival that lights up Haiti each summer. In towns across the country, people gather for moments of cultural celebration and festivity shaped by both Catholic and local spiritual traditions. Sacred and joyful, Fèt Chanpèt is a time when communities reunite, marketplaces burst with activity, bells ring, and the streets echo with music and cheer.

*****Lakou*** *is a Haitian Creole term for a communal family courtyard. More than a physical place, it is a sacred space that honors ancestors and serves as a gathering place for shared meals, music, dancing, storytelling and debates.*
Lakou Migonga *refers to the backyard of my family home in Plaine-du-Nord, Haiti.*