

Tchaka

Haitian Creole – English Poetic Translation

Chofe dife! Nou pral manje tchaka!
Chofe dife, brase mayi, pa bliye tisale,
Nou pral manje yon bon tchaka.
Nou pral voye monte yon bouyon tèt chaje.

Twa tanbou yo frape, tout moun rele anmwe.
An nou pote kole pou nou tout ka vanse.
An nou makonnen ansanm nan yon bèl amoni
Yon bon bouyon lakay, yon tchaka mizikal.

Se yon bon bouyon lakay, yon tchaka nasyonal,
Se yon bon bouyon lakay...
Chofe dife! Chofe dife!

Yanvalou, Kontredans, Rabòday se gwo koze.
Mizik lakay, o wi se bèl bagay.
Pote kole; kòtakòt n'ape vanse.
Chofe dife, chofe dife, tchaka ape monte!

Ibo, Bolero, Banda, Mayi, Congo, Petro, Maskaron...
Mizik sa yo se konpa lakay.

Nou danse Kalinda, nou chante Rabòday,
Tèt ansanm, nan renmen, an nou fè bèl bagay.

Chofe dife! Chofe dife!

Nou proklame lespwa e nou chante lapè,
Pou limyè la jistis blayi sou tout latè.

N'ap kontinye chante...
N'ap kontinye chante pou fè lavi pi bèl!

Nan jistis, nan renmen, an nou manje yon bon tchaka!

Ayibobo!

An'n manje yon bon tchaka!

-Gabriel T. Guillaume
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Turn up the fire! We are going to eat tchaka!
Turn up the fire, stir up the corn, don't forget the salt pork,
We are going to eat a delicious tchaka.
We are going to cook up a mind-blowing stew.

At the sound of the three drums, everyone yells out hurray.
If we join together we can all move forward.
Let us enmesh in lovely harmony
A delicious homemade stew, a musical tchaka.

It's a delicious homemade stew, a national tchaka,
A delicious homemade stew...
Turn up the fire! Turn up the fire!

**Yanvalou, Kontredans, Rabòday are amazing.*
Roots music, oh yes, that's good stuff.
Let's stick together; side by side we can move forward.
Turn up the fire! Turn up the fire! The tchaka is cooking!

**Ibo, Bolero, Banda, Mayi, Congo, Petro, Maskaron...*
These are the rhythms of our roots.

*We danced *Kalinda and we sang Rabòday,*
Heads together, with love, let us do great things.

Turn up the fire! Turn up the fire!

We proclaimed hope and we sang of peace,
So that the light of justice spreads throughout the earth.

We'll keep on singing...
We'll keep on singing to make life more beautiful!

In justice and in love, let's eat a delicious tchaka!

Amen!

Let's eat a delicious tchaka!

**Types of Haitian dance rhythms*

Tchaka is one of the most popular meals in Haitian cuisine. It's a "melting pot" – a tasty mélange of different food products such as corn, beans with pork, and crustaceans. Likewise, Haitian folklore consists of a huge variety of rhythms and dances that when mixed together give birth to extraordinary works. Bon appétit and happy listening!

#tchakaSG