# BAGOBO RIDDLES

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## I. INTRODUCTION

#### 1. The Background.

The bulk of the riddles in this collection was gathered during an ethnographic field work among the upland Bagobo of northwestern Davao province, Mindanao, during the period from April to June 1956 made possible through a research grant given by the Institute of Asian Studies, University of the Philippines. Later, Mr. Saddani Pagayaw, my guide and assistant, added more riddles which have been duly incorporated in this compendium.\*

This paper, which is exploratory in intention, forms part of a series of studies on Bagobo culture. An initial study on the Bagobo folk epic *Tuwaang*, including text and translation into English of one complete song has already been published previously.<sup>1</sup> Another work that is being readied for publication is a collection of Bagobo folk tales, also one of the results of this field work. This collection consists of thirty-six prose narratives including a genealogy of Tuwaang, the central figure of the epic just mentioned and the culture hero of the Bagobo people.

# 2. The Atukon or Bagobo Riddle.

In so far as I am aware, this is the first collection of Bagobo riddles to appear in print. Previous studies by Fr. Mateo

<sup>\*</sup> In the gathering and interpretation of these riddles, I wish to acknowledge my indebtedness to my Bagobo friends, especially Saddani Pagayaw, Lumayon Lambayon, Salin'u Paniyungan, and Siawan Sanggulian.

<sup>1.</sup> See The Maiden of the Buhong Sky, first published in Philippine Social Sciences and Humanities Review, v. 22, no. 4 (Dec. 1957), pp. 435-497; and then revised (Quezon City, Univ. of the Philippines Press, 1958; vii, 70 pp.).

Gisbert,<sup>2</sup> Laura Watson Benedict,<sup>3</sup> and Fay-Cooper Cole<sup>4</sup> dealt with the language, folklore and religion, and the general culture respectively of the Bagobo people, but not one of these works contains any specimens of Bagobo riddle, nor any reference to it. In fact Fr. Gisbert's *Diccionario Bagobo-Español* (1892), although it is supposed to be a dictionary, does not register the Bagobo term for riddle which is *atukon*. This *Diccionario*, however, records *atoc* with two meanings—"profetizar" and "opuesto". The first meaning appears to have a closer connotation to the morpheme *atoc* or *atuk*, which I have found to be the wordbase of *atukon*, riddle.

From the examples in this compilation one would notice that there are a number of riddles which start with atuka ru (see Nos. 11b, 43, 48, 50a, 50b, 81, 87, 121, 131b, 151), meaning "you guess what it is," or with the phrase atuka ru sa (see Nos. 12, 104, 137), with an identical meaning. Sometimes this introductory line is shortened to atuka (see No. 127), atukaw (examples in Nos. 3, 91), or atukaw sa (Nos. 25, 28, 79b, 135b), which all amount to "you guess." While the Bagobo riddle, I suppose, would normally have such an initial line to start the riddle proper with, the compilation does not show that this is the typical pattern in practice. I observed, for instance, that while an incoming participant in riddle making would start his or her riddle with any of these initial phrases, he would not do it when propounding more riddles, or he would only do it at distant intervals. The moment the game of riddling has gained momentum, the participants would just rehearse their stock of riddles one after the other without the introductory line.

# 3. Riddling in its Social Context.

Riddle making requires no special occasion, nor any par-

<sup>2.</sup> See his Diccionario Bagobo-Español (Manila, Establ. tipo-lito. de Ramirez y Comp., 1892; 64 + pp.); and Diccionario Español-Bagobo (Manila, Establ.-tipo. de J. Marty, 1892; xvi, 188 + pp.).

<sup>3.</sup> See her "Bagobo Myths," Journal of American Folklore, v. 26 (1913), pp. 13-63; and A Study of Bagobo Ceremonial, Magic and Myth (being v. 25, 1916, of the Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences).

<sup>4.</sup> See his The Wild Tribes of Davao District, Mindanao (being v. 12, no. 2, Sept. 1914, of the Anthropological Series, Field Museum of Natural History.)

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ticular social setting, as is found in other Filipino societies.<sup>5</sup> It may start with younger folks or children, either during some kind of activity like playing house, chatting around the fireplace, waiting for a turn to pound rice, fetching water, or while delousing one another or weaving, occupations of no strenuous nature; or while they are completely at rest after lunch is over. After the impulse is set by young people, the older folks get stimulated somewhat to soon enlist their participation, active or mediocre, depending upon the kind of engagement they are occupied in at the moment.

Any gathering of people where there are children is likely to create an interest in riddle making after the news reports have been exhausted, or the longer tales have been told. These are propitious times for riddle making. There is, however, but one occasion when propounding riddles is not favored, and that is during evenings. This period seems to be the proper time for other more engaging activities such as story telling and epic singing, especially so when there are bigger gatherings.<sup>6</sup> The old folks say that riddles should only be posed during the day because bad spirits might participate without the knowledge of the riddlers and may charge them, "If you cannot answer my riddle, I shall devour you."

Young people derive a lot of fun from riddle making and so also the older folks. In this connection it should be said that the Bagobo uplanders have not many outlets for amusing themselves. They have not many games, to start with, and these are chiefly for growing people; they have no drama to speak of; therefore, their sources of entertainment are very limited indeed. Although some individuals have an extensive repertoire of songs, I did not have much occasion to hear them, except the singing of *Tuwaang* songs which I consider the most meaningful artistic activity of these people, socially speaking. So riddle making has a place and a role in this society, a point which will be dealt more

<sup>5.</sup> Among the Remontados, a pagan Tagalog group, of Montalban, Rizal province, for instance, riddling is taboo except when there is a dead person in the house. Among Christian Tagalogs this rigid custom has become relaxed in varying degrees. But among the Ibaloy, solving riddles is indulged around the death chair (see C.R. Moss, "Nabaloi Law and Ritual," Univ. of California Publications in American Archaeology and Ethnology, Vol. 15, No. 3 (Oct. 28, 1920), p. 230.

<sup>6.</sup> See my "Introduction" to The Maiden of the Buhong Sky (1958).

in detail later. In a contest, unanswered riddles are counted against the participant who may be called *ka'ay'awan ka*, which is close to "you lack intellect," or "you lack imagination." Though such a dubbing may not start a quarrel, it prompts the unwitty, or sharpens individual and social consciousness to the value of learning traditions.

There is another motivation for acquiring a knowledge of riddles which shows that this activity has developed chiefly for entertainment. The older folks may give "green" riddles to arouse humour or laughter. In this compilation, however, only three riddles of this kind have been recorded (see Nos. 41, 82, and 134). I suspect that there should be more, but I felt that there was some inhibition on the part of my informants. It can be added, however, that salacious riddles are not the rule.<sup>7</sup>

# 4. The Collection and Informants.

Of the 180 specimens in this collection, 153 are base riddles and 27 are variants. When more informants conform to the wording of any riddle than any variant, I call this a base riddle, which may not necessarily mean the original or older form. Of this total 165 were contributed by forty-six male informants and only 15 by seven female riddlers. From this figure I should not make any inferences, because I had the feeling that during my stay of two months I was not able to elicit any fairly excellent response from the opposite sex. Besides, I should state that I think had not covered an area wide enough to warrant definitive statements with regard to Bagobo riddles, nor do I feel sure that I had exhausted even the stock of riddles that my informants had. For the purpose of the record, however, I am listing hereunder my resource persons, indicating therein their contributions at the same time. Another reason for not making an analysis is the fact that the collecting was done with pressure technique, using dragnet methods, and not under normal conditions. That is to say, folks were "herded" in story-telling or riddling sessions and asked to recall and contribute their stock of tales or riddles,

<sup>7.</sup> There is a taint of impudicity even in the folktales, which Bagobos relish in a spirit of healthy enjoyment. From our Upland Bagobo Narratives (unpublished), there is the story of Bulari' who used the clittoris of his mother for a bait, and there is "The Adulteress Rat" among thirty-six folktales in this collection.

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hence the informants were under some kind of stress. And then many of them could not stay long enough during these rehearsals.

	Name	Sex	Age	Number of Riddles Contributed Total Cour Base Varia	nt: ant
1	Saddani Pagayaw	m	29	la, 4c, 8, 9, 20, 29, 38b, 53, 55, 57, 59a, 64, 72, 76, 79a, 85, 88a, 89, 99, 100, 110, 118, 129, 133, 135a, 147, 152b	
2	Lumayon Lambayon	m	22	1b, 39, 44a, 67, 74, 77, 81, 88b, 92, 113, 122a, 126, 135c,	
3	Impunan Suhat	f	15	2, 27b, 50b, 121, 151 3 2	
4	Sumandang Pagayaw	m	35	3, 7, 119, 123, 141 5	
5	Engket Tumanding	m	27	4a, 28, 79b, 91, 135b 3 2	
6	Lisada' Pandoy	m	55	4b 1	
7	Ubpay Lumunday	m	18	4d, 5b, 15b, 130 1 3	
8	Kamansa' Bansilan	m	20	5a, 117 2	
9	Attus Bintayaw	m	51	6, 14, 40, 116 4	
10	Adton Ibuk	m	21	15a, 69, 96, 102, 105, 106b 5 1	
11	Tambaa' Lambayon	m	29	10a, 26, 86, 94, 140, 144, 152a 7	
12	Sasaw Suhat	m	50	10b, 34, 75, 145a 3 1	
13	Dangginon Ipa	m	37	11a 1	
14	Tambunan Manlatas	m	37	11b, 43, 131b4 137 2 2	
15	Kawata' Dumay	m	21	12, 37, 98, 109 4	
16	Panus Lasambung	m	34	13, 21, 112 3	
17	Gabaw Duhinay	m	50	16, 90, 132 3	
18	Palaytu' Avaw	m	15	17 1	
19	Salin'u Paniyungan	m	23	18, 36, 49, 61,68, 101, 107, 114,         115, 125, 142, 145b	
20	Mahullayon Bintayaw	m	45	19, 35, 41, 63, 108, 134, 153 7	
21	Ukuman Suhat	m	25	22 1	
22	Umbuan Lamunay	m	19	23 1	
23	Sambilawan Unsang	m	50	24a 1	
24	Siawan Sanggulian	m	20	24b 32, 46, 80, 84, 93, 103, 128, 149 8 1	
25	Miding Suhat	f	13	25, 42, 104 3	
26	Unggad Katabman	m	45	27a 1	
27	Galingga' lgad	f	40	30 1	
28	Aman Angkaab	m	48	31, 47, 58, 65, 78, 88c 5 1	
29	Adim Umbaoy	m	43	33, 106a 2	
30	Amba' Uyaw	m	34	38a, 62 2	
31	Ikok Latihan	m	14	44b, 139 1 1	
32	Banayaw Manlikay	m	16	45 1	

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3 <b>3</b>	Latihan Landim	m	70	48, 59b	1 1	
34	Anggusong Bayantung	m	37	50a, 87	2	
35	Inog Arayam	m	42	50c, 95b	2	
36	Baylon Sambilawan	m	30	511, 54, 122b, 143	3 1	
37	Taysan Ayu'	m	35	52	1	
38	Aring Suhat	f	25	56, 66, 97	3	
39	Ikney Suhat	f	22	60	1	
40	Salantay Manlamongan	m	31	70	1	
41	Ayug Ammad	m	23	71, 138	2	
42	Batooy Main	m	18	73	1	
43	Tunggay Suhat	m	60	82	1	
44	Utay Suhat	m	14	83	1	
45	Awiyan Buwisan	m	30	95a	1	
46	Adu' Lavawan	m	17	111, 120	2	
47	Ulidan Dahinsa:	f	12	124	1	
48	Samura' Pagayaw	f	32	127	1	
49	Katawanan Mangal	m	30	131a	1	
50	Mampu'Basu:	m	30	131c	1	
51	Lambayon Mudim	m	73	136, 148	2	
52	Duyan Suhat	m	65	149	1	
53	Uyaw Maliggatung	m	44	150	1	

A breakdown of the contributions by age groups shows that the largest number comes from the 21-30 years old bracket. A summary is given below:

Age Group	) '	Total No. of Riddle	rs Contrib	Contributions:	
			Base Riddles	Variants	
11 - 20 years	old			7	
21 - 30 "	<b>,,</b>			12	
31 – 40 "	··			2	
41 – 50 "	··			4	
51 – 60 years	old		5	1	
61 – 70 "	<b>,,</b>			1	
71 – 80 "	···			0	

Of these 53 informants, only three had gone to school (Saddani Pagayaw at the time of gathering being a college student, Lisada' Pandoy having studied at the Central Luzon Agricultural School, and Salin'u Paniyungan had gone to a local elementary school). Among these folks are also story tellers. In fact Mahullayon Bintayaw was the source of four folktales, Adtum Ibuk of three folktales, and Aring Suhat, Lumayon Latihan, Ukuman Suhat,

Impunan Suhat, Tambaa' Lambayon, Attus Bintayaw, Salin'u Paniyungan, Sasaw Suhat, Saddani Pagayaw, Adim Umbaoy, and Ayug Ammad contributing a folk story each to our Upland Bagobo Narratives. Two of them, Aring Suhat and Tunggay Suhat, niece and uncle, are well known epic singers. Besides, Saddani Pagayaw was the immediate source of The Maiden of the Buhong Sky.

# 5. Riddling and other Folk Arts.

Notwithstanding the limitations under which this collection of riddles was made, I wish to offer the following general observations on the relationship between riddle making and other aesthetic activities in Bagobo society. It could be said that every Bagobo knows a number of riddles, the greatest number contributed to this collection being twenty-four riddles from the store of Saddani Pagayaw, my guide and assistant. This resource person was with me, however, during almost two months of ethnographic work, whereas most of the other folks were in the vicinity of my activity for less than a day at most. Although more than twenty of these informants appear on record to have contributed only one riddle each, this was not actually the case for a number of the riddles were known to every one; however, these riddles could not be credited to them simply because they had already been given previously.

Whereas every person knows a number of riddles, not everyone can sing. Singing as an art appeared to me as limited to a few individuals who have a good voice to start with, or had developed the same quite early through contact with singers. So I should say that riddle making is a more popular pastime with these people than any other oral form of folk literature, and for that reason, it is likely to last longer as a traditional vehicle. Also, every Bagobo knows a number of folk stories, at least in this upland area. Not everyone would tell his stock of tales—many were shy, or were timid in a face-to-face dealing with a newcomer, or were taken aback by a sudden request for stories and if ever they could pull up enough nerves to tell them, these were in abbreviated or incomplete form. Then the people know their mythology or segments of the same. But there are very few persons who could sing their epic, *Tuwaang.*<sup>7a</sup> This

<sup>7</sup>a. See "Inroduction" to The Maiden of the Buhong Sky (1958). There was no singer found, however, who could sing the whole epic.

fact may be attributed to vocal limitations and other factors, for we had recorded a number of prose versions of the narrative songs abridged by descendants of epic singers.<sup>8</sup>

But it appeared to me that there were as many people who could dance as those who could play any musical instrument. The explanation seems to be that the playing of any instrument is closely connected with the dance, although there were old men who would prefer to play a wind instrument rather than dance. I saw more women dancers than men. However, the practitioners of the dance outnumber the epic singers, and do also the instrumentalists, whether these handled percussion, wind, or string instruments. Of these aesthetic manifestations, it seems to me that epic singing is the most demanding of individual talent and personal qualifications.

### II. THE RIDDLES

# 6. Text and Orthography.

There is some simplification in the orthography of the text, but a complete phonemization of Bagobo is yet a task to be accomplished. The symbol o representing a sound between the Tagalog sounds a and o, used in The Maiden of the Buhong Sky (1958), is being abandoned for a, its allophone. The sounds band v are allophones of b, but have been maintained as symbols in the present text whenever phonetically present. Contiguous vowels are really separated by a glottal catch represented by ', but the latter sound is weak in many instances, necessitating its omission. The period, used in our work previously cited to indicate a long vowel sound is now replaced by the colon, for the Bagobo long vowel is longer than the orthodox penultimate stress in Tagalog.<sup>8a</sup>

The riddles are transcribed into lines following pauses made by the riddler, although punctuation marks to indicate such pauses have not been adopted except in very rare cases. The

<sup>8.</sup> Of the thirty-six stories in *Upland Bagobo Narratives*, some thirteen folktales appear to be derived from the Bagobo epic cycle or are related directly to this epic.

<sup>8</sup>a. Which stress has already been symbolized by Leonard Bloomfield (*Language*, 1933, p. 173, 310) by a colon and followed by other students of Philippine language like Harold C. Conklin, "Tagalog Speech Disguise," *Language*, v. 32, no. 1 (Jan.-Mar. 1956), pp. 136-139.

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division into lines is therefore our own making, but for a reason already mentioned. The exception is when the riddle is in the form of a question, as in Nos. 115 and 124, where there is no marked stopping between any two terms.

# 7. The Translation.

In making an English rendition of the Bagobo texts, the same principles were followed as in *The Maiden* of *the Buhong Sky*, without being too literally rigid, but at the same time sticking to a line by line translation. There was not much freedom doing this as the main goal was to make as faithful a rendition of the Bagobo meaning as was possible at our command. Bagobo proper names and other terms were left alone untranslated most often.

### 8. Arrangement.

The riddles have been arranged according to the solutions in Bagobo, as the texts occupy the first column. To obviate inconvenience to English users that this arrangement will entail, an alphabetical list of answers in English is provided for in Part III. The Lehmann-Nitsche system of classification of riddles, now widely adopted by riddle scholars, could have been utilized, but as this is but a small collection it was thought best to postpone this to a later date when the wealth of Bagobo enigmatic lore shall by then have been fully tapped.<sup>8b</sup>

### 9. The Riddles.

BAGOBO TEXT

ENGLISH TRANSLATION

FENCE

 $A:D^9$ 

Dullug inis bakassan, Kahat dad ta ikug din.

Addullug ini bakassan, Kahat dad ta ikug din. 1a As that python crawls, It soon bites its own tail.1b As this python crawls,

8b. As Archer Taylor, world authority on the riddle, Univ. of California, once wrote the writer. "The chief thing is to get the texts into print, and only the large cumulative collections need, I think, be classified elaborately" (Berkeley, California, Oct. 30, 1958).

<sup>9.</sup> The colon is used in the Bagobo text to indicate vowel length which is phonemically significant in the Bagobo language and which appears longer than the penultimately stressed vowel in Tagalog (also

It soon bites its own tail.<sup>10</sup>

AHUNG

GONG

2

Atuka ru sa<sup>11</sup> Anak ta mahindanaw Na ahad iddat sa:ysay Naddinog tadsinaggaw. You guess what it is Magindanaw child<sup>12</sup> As far even as Sa:ysay<sup>13</sup> Could be heard its cry.

ALLAW

Ad'ipanaw ini datu', Adpangarap sa lahat.

SUN

3 When this datu travels,<sup>14</sup> Everyone pays obeisance.

ALLAW UWOY BULLI'

Atukaw.15

symbolized by a colon by other students of Philippine languages; see footnote 8a. This is a modification of the period after the vowel used in our previous work (see *The Maiden* of the Buhong Sky, 1958, already cited).

10. As the fence is finished by sticking the last stakes into the ground, the horizontal pieces are securely fastened to the initial stakes finalizing the enclosure and thus making the resolution of the riddle a perfect one in the Bagobo mind. In my judgment this is one of the most beautifully conceived of pieces in the collection.

11. A way of starting a riddle, the phrase atuka ru being derived from atuk guess +ka you +ru it.

12. One of the ethnic groups in west central Mindanaw (see H. Otley Beyer, Population of the Philippine Islands in 1916, Manila 1917, p. 52). The line shows the upland Bagobos of Davao province are familiar with the Magindanaws. In fact the large bronze gongs that the Bagobos have in their households were trade items coming from that direction. In folk tales (see my Upland Bagobo Narratives, MS) and other songs of the Tuwaang epic cycle the Magindanaws are mentioned, sometimes as enemies.

13. Name of a place southeast of and below the Dallag plateau where these riddles were mostly collected. This place-name is a variable element and so may be changed for another by the riddler to suit the locale.

14. The *datu* is a powerful and respected individual in upland Bagobo society. If he has the personal attributes, he may exercise political, judicial, police, and religious powers.

15. Another phrase starting a riddle, similar to atuka ru; atukaw comes from atuk guess+kaw you.

Sanga supan<sup>16</sup> boggas Na sanga supan kabba:.<sup>17</sup>

Sakkad na supak<sup>18</sup> boggas, Sakkad na supak langnga'.<sup>19</sup>

Sakkad na supan boggas Uwoy sakkad na supan kabba:.

Sakkad na supak boggas Na sakkad na supak bottom.<sup>20</sup>

#### DAY AND NIGHT

- 4a You guess what it is. One chupa of hulled rice And one chupa of millet.
- 4b One chupa of hulled rice, One chupa of sesame.
- 4c One chupa of hulled rice And one chupa of millet.

4d One chupa of hulled rice And one chupa of *bottom* grain.<sup>21</sup>

#### ALLAW UWOY BULLI'

Na atin addungguk meton na anak langun tabpatay;

19. Sesame (Sesamum orientale L.).

20. Plant taller than rice, its stem without hollow. It is planted around the *kaingin* at the time of rice planting. The grain is small and is pounded in a mortar like rice. The Bagobos cook it like rice.

21. In these four variants, note the constant referrent of hulled rice to day and the variable element in the second part of each riddle.

<sup>16.</sup> From supa' cover of a basket the content of which is equivalent to one chupa + na connective particle.

<sup>17.</sup> A shrub commonly planted around the *kaingin* or field which grows as tall as rice. It bears round pods which contain tiny black seeds which are oily. The pods are dried under the sun, the seeds being roasted in a kettle and pounded in a mortar, the paste now mixed with any vegetable food preparation. The meat of the seed is white, the taste like peanut.

<sup>18.</sup> From supa' cover of a basket + ka connective particle.

Na atin addungguk maputin anak, langut minuvu' agkauyag.

Duwon anak ka pomon dini' tidtallak nagkaumannang ki, langun tabpatay; Atin ad'ingumaran ka sakkad na anak,

langun tagkauyag.

Duwon anak na pomon dini' tidtallak

# DAY AND NIGHT

5a When the black child arrives, all die;When the white child comes, all the people come to life again.

5b There is a child who comes from the east, when it reaches us, all die;But when the other child arrives, all revive.

#### ALLAW UWOY URAN<sup>22</sup>

Ad'ipanaw inis anak na aruwa', Nadtinundug inis ari' rin nadsinaggaw.

### SUN AND RAIN

6 When these two children travel, The younger brother follows him crying.

#### AMBAKKANG

Layanglayang sa manuk Na laton mandon palous.<sup>23</sup>

For another example of a variable factor in Bagobo riddling, see note 13 above.

<sup>22.</sup> When it is raining and the sun is shining at the same time, it is the time when evil spirits move around and travel and the ghosts of the dead come out of their graves. Parents warn their children not to go out or play during this time because they might encounter them and be harmed by these spirits or ghosts.

<sup>23.</sup> The winged lizard is a small animal with a keel on its back.

#### WINGED LIZARD

7 As the bird flies

It alights again on a post.

#### ANAK NADSUSU'

Singkatu' duwa' batang, Langngag duwa' bituon.

#### SUCKLING CHILD

8 Leaping on two logs,<sup>24</sup> He saw two stars.<sup>25</sup>

#### $ANGU'^{26}$

Mappiyapiya' na mangovay Agkaat lawa' rin.

#### TORCH

A very charming girl<sup>27</sup>
 Eating up her own body.

# APANG

Kalasanon ta untud Na makalanu' kadlanna'.

Kalasanon ta untud Na makadlasay kadlanna'.

Kaumpad idda da'ut kawayan Langut minuvu' agka:nu'.

Atukaru. Agkau:g ka da'ut kawayan Nagka:nga' sa mahingad.

It usually alights on trunks of trees, not on branches, so the riddle which appears to be based on this observation.

<sup>24.</sup> The two logs are the thighs of the mother on which the child is held.

<sup>25.</sup> The two stars are the nipples of the mother.

<sup>26.</sup> The torch is made of fresh rattan leaves provided with resin in-between and tied neatly with split rattan vine. The newly made torch can be used immediately because people prefer to use it when fresh, for then it will not burn easily.

<sup>27.</sup> To a Baggobo the torch so made is beautiful to look at, so the personification here.

LOCUST

- 10a A wild chicken from the sky Worries people when it comes.
- 10b A wild chicken from the sky Causes suffering when it comes.
- 11a When these bamboo leaves fall All men become worried.
- 11b Guess what it is. Bamboo leaves falling People worrying.

# ATOP UWOY BA:HON

Atin wara' si kawayway, Nagkau:g das kataptap.

ROOF AND RATTAN

 If it were not for kawayway,<sup>28</sup> Kataptap<sup>29</sup> would have fallen.

# APUY

Anak na mid'aylogga' Na langut datu' nadka:nga'; Na atin ad'annaw. Nadkaha:k datu'.

FIRE

13 When this child is lying,
 All the datus are unhappy;
 But when this child gets up,
 The datus are happy.<sup>30</sup>

### A:TTI'

Abpatongko:y inis datu', Na kannag kapongnga';

<sup>28, 29.</sup> Kawayway is a personification of uway (rattan), nd kataptap of atop (roof). There is a wordplay of sounds here suggestive of the answer.

<sup>30.</sup> That is, when the fire is lying low there is nothing cooking, hence, people will go hungry. The upland Bagobo family keeps a firebrand always burning under the ashes.

Ka kannad inguma' Ka sakkad na datu'.

#### DAMMING IN FISHING

 These datus foregather, But they cannot agree, If he does not arrive The other datu'.<sup>31</sup>

#### A'UNG

Mobbava' na lapuk Kannad kaappus Kabpannatayan.

Maliblivutut na batang Na kannag kaappus Kabpannatayan.

#### SHADOW

15a It is a short log Whose end cannot be reached By treading over it.

15b It is a very short log Whose end cannot be reached By treading over it.<sup>32</sup>

### BADSI:

Pamallangay si anaay, Nabagsayan ni madilay.

BADSI: BIRD

Anaay<sup>33</sup> is sailing,
 While madilay<sup>34</sup> is paddling.<sup>35</sup>

32. People cross kaingins or streams over logs or unburnt tree trunks, forming the stimulus for the riddle.

<sup>31.</sup> The fishermen here are making a dike of stones, the datus referred to in the riddle. But unless mud, the other datu, is plastered to the dike, the dam will leak and therefore the hole cannot be dried up and the fishes cannot be caught with the hand. The word a:tti' means to dry up. For an analogous riddle, see no. 33, *infra*.

<sup>33, 34.</sup> Annay, referring to the wings, and madilay to the tail, are personifications used only in riddle-making. See notes 28 & 29 for other examples.

<sup>35.</sup> On why this particular bird answers the riddle, Saddani Pagag-

#### BAHIBBI'

Kayu' ta pattad Na navuwahuy ka da'un.

> BAHIBBI' PALMTREE 17 A tree on the plain

With leaves outspreading.

# BAHIYANG

Abbovaoy ini kanakan Na atin abpakapongnga' Na diyan ad'ubpa' ta liyuwan.

BAHIYANG PLANT<sup>36</sup>

18 This young man is building a house Which when finished Would make him live outside the wall.<sup>37</sup>

# BA:HON

Id' ipanaw inis anak Na sakkad din da' Na gorali' naka'uli' Na kanna rud agkavilang.

RATTAN

19 This child departed
 Just alone
 But when he returns
 You cannot count them.<sup>38</sup>

### BAKA'

O:nwahan ni apu' Kannag kasambayan.

LOWER JAW

20 The seesaw of apu' Cannot be borrowed.

yaw, my informant, explained that this bird while flyng flaps its wings and moves its tail up and down at a frequency higher than most birds.

36, 37. A tuber that grows tall with wide leaves and bears fruits around its trunk, the same being eaten during days of famine. The tubers are the young men who ordinarily should be found under the ground, but this plant bears tubers otherwise, around the trunk.

38. Because the rattan is now split into many pieces.

BAKASSAN

Po'awan ni apu' Na warab pakasambay.

Bangkaling ni lumimbod Tikos ni dumalanggay Midlagunando' punay Nigkutolanda' limukon Danda' pamuyvuyani'.

#### PYTHON

- 21 The belt of apu' Which no one can borrow.
- Lumimbod's bangkaling<sup>39</sup>
   Dumalanggay's tikos<sup>40</sup>
   Likened to the punay bird
   Simulated by the limukon bird
   The decoration was made of.<sup>41</sup>

#### BAKBAK

Ballu' duwa' mata' rin Kunan toman tabballu' ka batu'.

FROG

Jumping with his two eyes
 I thought I have jumped on a stone.<sup>42</sup>

#### BALIOG

Sakkad na hatus ka anak Na sakkad dak bituka' ran. Mahatus sa kanakan Sakkad dak ginawa'.

**<sup>39</sup>**, 40. The *bangkaling* is a decorated leglet wider than the ordinary tikos, which has a narrower though finer weave.

<sup>41.</sup> The decoration on the *bangkaling* and *tikos* is likened to the eyes of th *punay* and *limukon* birds and again compared to the stripes found on the python. Bagobo descriptive style finds expressive exuberance in this riddle, only to be excelled in the epic poems (see again The Maiden of the Buhong Sky, already cited).

<sup>42.</sup> That is, a frog when jumping does not mind alighting on another because it does not think the animal to be another frog but a stone. This is according to Bagobo interpretation.

# NECKLACE OF BEADS

24a Being one hundred children But have only one intestine.<sup>42a</sup>

24b One hundred young men Have but one life.<sup>42b</sup>

# BA'OD

Atukaw sa Anak uwoy'uwoy bakkut.

#### SNARE

Guess what it is
 Whose children are all hunchback.<sup>43</sup>

# BA'OY

La:ngkob ini banug Nadlivunglivung ka pusung.

Ka:vow nabbatas ta dakkon weeg Kannag ka:mmas ka gottok Iyan agka:mmas ka pokka'.

Abbatas ka bavuy Kannag ka:mmas ka gottok.

### HOUSE

26 This eagle sits While its heart wanders.<sup>44</sup>

- 27a A carabao crossing a big river Its belly cannot be wet What gets wet is its back.
- 27b A pig crosses a river Its belly cannot be wet.

<sup>42</sup>a, 42b. To the Bagobo imagination the intestine and life stand for the string of the necklace.

<sup>43.</sup> Because this snare is composed of many snapping nooses.

<sup>44.</sup> The eagle is the house while the heart refers to the inhabitant of the house.

#### BAGOBO RIDDLES

#### BA:TIK

Atukaw sa Tuyyang ni apu' aggabbu' kad ikataan Atin kannad ikattan kannag gabbu'.

# BA: TIK TRAP

28

Guess what it is Apu's dog barks when leashed But when not leashed it does not bark.<sup>45</sup>

#### BA'UNTU:'

Avollon ni ginduon<sup>46</sup> Napagus ta pagawa'an.

Avollon ni ginduon Natunas ta lumbiya'an.

#### RAINBOW

29 Ginduon's loom Is set in the air.

Ginduon's loom
 Is the lumbiya'an's second growth.<sup>47</sup>

# BAVOT KAVI:

Ad'ipanaw inis anak Aruwa' rak ka:mmas ta suddu' Nad'uli' na idda reen.

### CARRYING BAG

When this man leaves
 He makes but two footprints
 At the time he returns.<sup>48</sup>

<sup>45.</sup> The ba:tik trap consists of a resilient bow which will not work if not leashed, and, therefore, will not bark.

<sup>46.</sup> Ginduon is a folk figure.

<sup>47.</sup> It is believed that a rainbow starts from the stump of a tree or plant, in this case, the *lumbiya'an*, which is a species of tree the bark of the roots of which is used as a substitute for the betel-nut.

<sup>48.</sup> The carrying bag straps make but two marks on the shoulders, which fact deceives the audience expecting the man to make many footprints in going and coming.

#### BAYUKUNG

La'ubug sa ka:vow Ka'attiyak dahat.

# BAYUKUNG LAND SHELL 32 The carabao wades

Drying up the sea.49

#### BESOK

Ahad natipun ki sa minuvu' Nad'a:tti' na kannad ka'attian Na atin kannad sombong iddas anak Na kannad ka'atti'.

#### MUD

Even if all of us people should gather
 To dry up the pool of water we cannot do so
 If the child would not show up
 It cannot be dried up.<sup>50</sup>

# BINAYU'

Tanudan ta Kiyudan ta.

#### RICE POUNDING

34 We both watch it

Bow and straighten up before it.<sup>51</sup>

# BITUON

Tibbason subpatugison Na kanna' matag da' nadtibbason

49. The bayukung land shell is collected by the people when they see it empty in the field, woods, or along their pathway. It is punched, strung, and stocked for lime making, since the upland Bagobo now live in the highlands away from the sea. The shell is arranged tier after tier in a pile of sticks and burned, then the burnt shell is picked up carefully and stored in bamboo tubes or lime containers. The bayukung is the carabao in this riddle drying up the sea because water is mixed with the lime, and a sure indication that the burning is properly done and the lime suitable for use is when the water is absorbed readily by the calcined material.

50. See Riddle No. 14 for an analog.

51. The Bagobo women, who prepare the food for the family, assume a position and posture when pounding rice which distinguishes them from their Christian countrymen. They set their feet at a con-

# Su idtahad ki dumangin

Ta datu' ta dumaduun.

# STARS

 We slash it in order to clear it But it is not merely clearing it But waiting for Dumangin The Datu' who lives up there.<sup>52</sup>

#### BOGGAS

Ubpa' ka ra' putian Siyak malayanglayang.

#### HULLED RICE

36 Just stay here white one I am flying about.<sup>53</sup>

### BOGGAS UWOY DAMPA'

Adsannab inis mahatus Na kanna' mabpakaabbog Nadsannab inis mahasa' Nabpakaabog.

#### RICE AND LADLE

37 When these one hundred ones dive The water does not become muddy

venient angle equidistant from the mortar and remain fixed in that position, in contrast with the Tagalog and Ilokano pounders whose one foot is set forward and the other backward. The Bagobo women, most often, hold their pestles with both hands, thus swaying their bodies greatest at the buttocks, making rice pounding a picturesque and sexy performance indeed. In comparison with Tagalog and Ilokano rice pounders who have freedom with their feet and arms, the swaying is suave and timid. The English rendition of *kiyudan* is certainly very weak.

<sup>52.</sup> In starting to clear a *kaingin*, the Bagobo farmer consults the position of certain stars to find out whether it would be favorable to make a clearing.

<sup>53.</sup> The white one refers to the hulled rice, the other one flying about being the husk. Although the latter is the more active one of the two and the one speaking, the Bagobo audience does not answer this riddle with "husk". The riddle portrays winnowing after pounding.

But when this thin one dives The water is stirred dirty.<sup>54</sup>

#### BOLLAD

Sanga sappin bulig Na bawi' tora' taddaggas.

Sanga sappi' na suyak Bawi' tora' taddaggas.

#### HAND

38a A bunch of bananasIs the cure for our itch.<sup>55</sup>

38b One spadix of suyak banana Is the cure for our itch.<sup>56</sup>

# BOTAD

Disok poron na anak Duwon dad sawwon din Ahad kas mama' Duwon dan sawwon din.

CORN57

 While yet a small child He is already with offspring Even as he grows into a man He still carries his child.

# BOTAD NAGSANAGGAN

Pamehes inis anak Nagkalikab.

# CORN BEING POPPED

40 When this child cries Down below he goes.

<sup>54.</sup> The one hundred ones refer to the rice being poured into the pot of water, while the thin one that stirs the water dirty is the ladle.

<sup>55, 56.</sup> The hand has the fingers that scratch and relieve itchiness. While Riddles 38a and 38b are substantially the same, the answer for the latter is "fingers" sometimes.

<sup>57.</sup> In the Bagobo language there is another synonym for botad, corn, and this is sannoy, both soft varieties. These terms do not refer to any other plant or grain.

#### BOTTI

Battung ta lihawasan Na sakkadsakkad ka batu'.

### VAGINA<sup>58</sup>

41 The river of Lihawasan Has but one stone.

#### BUAN

Tuwod ta bantulinay Nadpakapantaw ta dahat.

#### MOON

42 It is a stump of the bantulinay tree Overlooking the sea

### BULLI'

Atukaru Abpamunlawik banug Agkapanlas sa mahingad.

#### NIGHT

43 Guess what it is
 When the banug bird hoots<sup>59</sup>
 The inhabitants die.

#### BUNUWIT

Adsannab inis anak Nabpaka'angay ta buwawan.

<sup>58.</sup> Young people would not ordinarily give this kind of riddle, Saddani Pagayaw explained to me. In this case the riddler was then more than forty years old, the older folks not being inhibited when amongst themselves or even when amongst younger people to humour the audience. The "one stone" in the river is the clittoris.

<sup>59.</sup> The banug, identified as a variety of eagle, when it cries symbolizes death or destruction to the Bagobo; whereas the kuwahu's cry foretells ill luck (observed by traders, travellers, or affianced persons to be wed, that is, if the kuwahu' sings before the trader or traveller starts or while along his way, it means to these people certain failure or trouble, and they would return home, or the wedding ceremony would have to be postponed). It appears that the eagle's cry is taken as foretelling some distant event, while the kuwahu's scream has immediate meaning.

Sannab inis kanakan Nabpaka'angayt buwawan.

# FISHING HOOK, LINE, AND ROD 44a When this child dives He brings up gold.<sup>60</sup>

44b This child dives Bringing up gold.

### BURAKAN

Addullug ka bakassan Na kanna' ra' abpaka'uva' ta lahithit.

BURAKAN VINE

45 When that python crawls It cannot even move the grass.

### BUVU:

Mapung na baliti' Kannag kasarollan kag kasabpi'.

HAIR

46 Sturdy as a *baliti* tree is You will never know whereof a branch breaks off.

#### BUVU'

Ad'ilogga' iddas manga kanakan Na mahatus wara' tapid ibpit.

# BUVU' TRAP

47 Lying down together these young men
 A hundred of them without anyone being edged out.<sup>61</sup>

<sup>60.</sup> Gold symbolizes fish here because the Bagobo value fish as first class food, even more than venison, the deer being more plentiful.

<sup>61.</sup> This is so because the buyu' trap is cylindrical or barrel-like in shape and is made of slats fastened longitudinally around bamboo rings. The hundred young men are the slats which actually do not reach half that number, and hence this personification is a good example of folk exaggeration.

#### BAGOBO RIDDLES

### BUYYAG

Atukaru Sekkaw warad tavod du.

#### PARENTS

48 Guess what it is You would not be without your belt.<sup>62</sup>

#### DAHAT UWOY WE:G

Id'anak inis malitan Na udsarad agkavu:ng Ka pomon dad ta anak din.

# SEA AND RIVERS

49 This woman bearing children Could only be satiated If fed by her own children.

# DA:N

Atukaru Bitukat ullu: Pakatukas ta dahat.

Atukaru Bitukat kay kayasi' Nabpakatukas ta dahat.

Bitukat taligtig Abpakatukas ta dahat.

PATH or TRAIL

- 50a Guess what it is The *ullu*: bird's intestine<sup>63</sup> It reaches to the sea.
- 50b Guess what it is The *kayasi*' bird's intestine<sup>64</sup> It reaches to the sea.

<sup>62.</sup> The belt stands for parents, because it symbolizes strength (one informant going so far as to explain that when one tightens his belt when he is hungry, he regains vigor).

<sup>63.</sup> The ullu: is a small bird with grey-brown feathers.

<sup>64.</sup> The kayasi' or kaykayasi', smaller than the ullu: bird, has dark grey feathers.

#### E. ARSENIO MANUEL

50c The *taligtig* bird's intestine<sup>65</sup> Reaches out to the sea.

### DA:N

Sondongngan du Layug na moman Unayan du Taman dat bukuvuku'.

PATH or TRAIL

51 When you look at it from afar It is a tall betel nut tree But when you are close to it It is just up to your ankle.

# DA'UN TA KAYU'

Abpangayaw ini anak Na kannad abpaka'uli'.

> LEAF OF TREE 52 When this child goes to war He would never be able to return.

#### DILA'

Kasili' ta liddapan Kannab pakabaliyung.

#### TONGUE<sup>66</sup>

53 The eel from Liddapan Cannot turn on its back.

#### DUHI'

Abpakauta inis anak Kanna rig ka'oggan tabbava' Boyang agka'oggi' Kabbitbitan.

<sup>65.</sup> Of the three birds used in this type of riddle, the *taligtig* is the smallest; it has dark grey feathers with a light breast and a red spot there. It is apparent in this type of riddle that the use of small birds is resorted to heighten contrast and hence to mislead.

<sup>66.</sup> Same riddle is answered with *laliyungan*, house ridge, by Lumayon Lambayon and Latihan Landim.

### THORN

 54 This child is having a catch He cannot carry on his back But it becomes light When carried with the fingers.<sup>67</sup>

#### DARU'OY

Tuwod ta kapayawi' Aruwa' sa batang Na sakkad da' ka tuwod.

### POLYGENIST

 A stump of the kapayawi' tree Has two logs Although only one trunk.<sup>67a</sup>

# GAPUNGGAPUN

Atin sollom malihonnoy Atin pakauntud don ka allaw Na morat don.

### GAPUNGGAPUN GRASS FLOWER

56 In the morning it is beautiful But as the sun rises to the zenith It becomes ugly by then.<sup>68</sup>

# GASSAW

Mahatus na kanakan Sakkad deen kas u:nan.

67. The catch here has reference to the thorn which cannot be carried on the back because it got stuck somewhere in the sole of the foot. Such a sliver incapacitates the person to carry any load on his back too. The antecedent of it in the third line therefore confounds, because what is uppermost in the mind of the audience is the load which becomes light the moment the thorn is removed with the fingers. But the thorn is the referent here which is indeed very light when compared with any load. So whether the riddle is considered as a fact or a creation of the imagination, it becomes doubly puzzling.

67a. Polygyny is permissible in Bagobo society if sanctioned by the first wife and if economic status allows. As custom law permits divorce, polygyny is not common.

68. This grass crawls on the ground and has tiny flowers which gather dew and look like silver or diamonds in the morning but become dissipated at noon looking like disarranged hair losing its glitter to the Bagobo. The flowers have no scent.

# COMMON RAFTERS

57 A hundred young men Have only one pillow.

# GEDDAN

Geddan tak su:ngan Samsamon tak pokka'.

> ONE LOG LADDER 58 We step on her breast Hold on her back.<sup>69</sup>

GINAWA' or SONGNGA' Ka'anud inis lopuk Kannad laras sudsuva'.

> Adka'anud inis lopuk Muling makapa:ras Na muling nakapasuva'.

# BREATH

59a This log is carried by the waters Not downstream but upstream.

59b This log is carried by the waters Floating downstream Then upstream.

#### IKAM

Atim bulli' linaw Atin allaw batang.

MAT

60 In the evening it is a pool of water During the day it is a log.<sup>70</sup>

# KA:MAG

Anday kid lihad keta'?

70. The mat is rolled up into a tube, so the figure in the second line.

<sup>69.</sup> This is just plain description of what a person does when he goes up a Bagobo house using a one log ladder. I stopped for a long time trying to figure out the answer to this riddle which fascinated me very much. I did not succeed. Giving the right answer was prolonged by the fact that this one log ladder is now being displaced by the stair-frame with rungs.

Sagengke: wara' paa' Boyang la'ud si datu' Kadla'ud si mandauda'.

# WIND

- 61 Who is passing by us?
- 62 Dancing without feet This datu' dances only When Mandauda' dances.

#### KA:MBUG

Baboy ta ki banbanon Na diyan da'om baukag.

KA: MBUG TREE<sup>71</sup>

63 Our wild hog from Banbanon<sup>72</sup>
 Its bristles are inside.

# KAMMO: UWOY IRUNG

Ad'ipanaw inis aruwa' Adsinuhungngon ta limma'.

HAND AND NOSE

64 When these two travel They are met by five.<sup>73</sup>

#### KAMOT

Naka'uta: inis kanakan Naboyang abpamillakon Kad'upusan padtitiya'.

> KAINGIN (i.e., SWIDDEN) 65 This young man has a catch

<sup>71.</sup> With a sour fruit (although I have not seen this tree, it appears that this is Tagalog *katmon* tree from description).

<sup>72.</sup> The *kaingin*, after the trees are felled and dry, is burned first before the rice seeds are planted. Holes, in which the seeds are deposited, are made with dribbling sticks described as the spearing in the riddle. Normally, a wild hog or deer is speared to death first and singed later, the reverse of the picture portrayed in the riddle.

<sup>73.</sup> When mucus is secreted down the two nostrils, it is received immediately by the hand and fingers and flung.

But before spearing it He singes it first.<sup>74</sup>

# KAPAYAS

Mangovay nadlahinat Nabpakalingkus kadsapipiyon.

# PAPAYA TREE

66 This maiden stood up Carrying all under her armpits.<sup>75</sup>

# KA:SIDU' UWOY KAMANGA'

Ayad'adan ta pu:' Ta danggayan ta bayanak.

# BOLO AND WHETTING STONE

67 It is a rubbing-place on an island
 Where the bayanak fish swims around.<sup>76</sup>

#### KASILA'

Addullug ini bakassan Nabpaka'appus ka sa:'

# SWEET POTATO77

68 As this python crawls It lays eggs all along.

#### KASU'AT

Aggusik diyan Aggusik dini'.

### LAUGHTER

69 You open up there You open up here.<sup>78</sup>

# KAVA:

Lumayang si lumanggak Layang si langga'upay

<sup>74.</sup> Bambanon appears as a placename in folklore or riddles only.

<sup>75.</sup> The fruits and flowers appear under the petiole to the Bagobo.

<sup>76.</sup> This is understood to mean the island is the whetting stone and the fish is the bolo being whetted.

<sup>77.</sup> Tavosa:, squash, is another answer to this riddle.

<sup>78.</sup> Aggusi' means to open up little by little. During my stay of two

Dinaput da'út taggap Daput da'ún kinarom.

# FLYING SQUIRREL<sup>79</sup>

Lumonggak took to its wings
 Langgaupay<sup>79a</sup> flew in the air
 Alighting like the leaf of the tanggap
 Alighted like the kinarom leaf.<sup>80</sup>

#### KAVI:

Darubmuk bavuy Na kannad darubmon diyat pattad Su diyat tangngat da:ma'.

# CARRYING BAG

71 When the wild hog makes its nest He does not make it in the plain But in the middle of the cliff.<sup>81</sup>

#### KILAT

Tibbasan dawandawan Uli' mongobogkobog.

Avollon dawandawan Pakud ta udtuwan.

LIGHTNING

72 It slashes everywhere It returns roaring.

73 Looms everywhere Fastened to the zenith of the sky.

79. A dark grey four-footed animal interpreted by the people as an ambitious creature who wishes to fly like a bird by getting up a tree first before flying, but only to land on the ground like a leaf.

79a. Lamonggak and langgaupay are fictitious names of animals which exist only in riddles and folktales.

80. The *tanggap* tree is tall and the *kinarom* tree small, but the falling leaf of these trees appears like the flying squirrel to the Bagobo, so the figure of speech.

81. Because this bag, really a sort of knapsack, is carried on the back with straps.

months with the upland Bagobo in 1956, I have the impression that they are not given to laughter.

# KILAY

Pamehes ka antig Nagkatabba: kas vubungan.

# EYEBROW

74 When that frog croaks The mountains slide.

#### **KUGLUNG**

Kayu' ta pangandasan Malagawlaw sambolon.

# KUGLUNG GUITAR

75 The tree of Pangandasan Resounds deeply when strummed.

# KURON UWOY APUY

Labbut ni kaitoman Dilotan ni kapuypuy.

POT AND FIRE

76 The anus of kaitoman Is being licked by Kapuypuy.<sup>32</sup>

### KUWAT

Bavaoy inis anak Sakkadsakkad ka tuddok.

# KUWAT MUSHROOM

77 This child is building a house It has only one post.

# LABBONG

Pamuwa' ta Kanna tad adlawwian.

82. This could also be rendered into:

Is being licked by Firie.

The anus of Blackie.

The Bagobo term *metom*, black, and *apuy*, fire, are both personified into Kaitoman and Kapuypuy respectively.

### GRAVE

78 We plant it But never visit it.<sup>83</sup>

# LANOG

Atin mavaddas sikandin Abpaningkayu' Atin kanna' mavaddas Kannad paningkayu'.

Atukáw sa Malitan na mavaddas Manokka: nabpiad ta kayu' Atin kanna' mavaddas Kannab paka'allag nabpiad ta kayu.

# SWOLLEN RIVER

79a When she becomes pregnant She would gather fuel But when she is not pregnant She would not gather fuel.

79b You guess what it is
She is a pregnant woman
Strong to carry trees
But when she is not pregnant
She does not even have enough strength to carry firewood.

#### LANTUY

Kasili' ta liddapan Pa:tlimma' sa mata'.

> LANTUY FLUTE 80 The eel from Liddapan<sup>84</sup>

<sup>83.</sup> In the Bagobo culture preceding the present, whenever death occurred, the family abandoned the house and residence and moved to a new place (unlike in the contemporary culture which now allows burial near the house without necessitating abandonment). So the riddle is a true picture of an older folkway, although the people even of the present generation still understand the riddle.

<sup>84.</sup> Liddapan, a folkloristic placename. has already been used previously in Riddle No. 53, which has the same initial line.

Has four to five eyes.<sup>85</sup>

#### LASSUNG

Atuka ru Pung Sa waloy.

# MORTAR

81 You guess what it is Flat is the base Of the house.<sup>86</sup>

# LASU'

Kayu' ta kapatahan Na sinusu'an sa u'ud.

#### PENIS

82 A tree from the plain Its end is decorticated.

# LAVIRANG

Bilingbiling mana'ung Tabagon ta buwaya'.

WINGED LAWAN TREE FRUIT

83 The whirling Manaung
 Is cracked by the crocodile.<sup>87</sup>

#### LAWIT MANUK

Ka:sidut datu' Atin idtibbas ta datu' Kannag kabongawan Atin idtibbas ta weeg Agkabengawan.

<sup>85.</sup> The *lantuy* has really only four fingered holes, but the riddler here has included the blowing hole to confound his audience.

<sup>86.</sup> The pung of the text is an aphaeresis of *lappung*, flat at both ends, and *waloy* which should be *baoy*, house, are purposive linguistic changes to disguise speech.

<sup>87.</sup> Mana'ung is a personified name in riddle-making, no person having that name on the Dallag plateau where this collection was made; so Mana'ung here is understood to mean the winged fruit, and the crocodile the wild hog who eats the nut by cracking it.

# BAGOBO RIDDLES

# ROOSTER'S LONGEST TAIL FEATHER

84 The bolo of the datu

- If slashed against a stone
- It does not nick
- If slashed against water
- It becomes nicked.

# LAYA'

Atin anak pa Abpana'uwa: Atin buyyag don Warad sa'uwa:

# BAMBOO SHOOT

85 While still young
 He wears trousers
 But when already old
 He is without trousers.<sup>88</sup>

#### LIMATOK

Ba:hon nabpadaldal Na weeg nagkumpaniya:' nadsavang.

LEECH

86 It is a rattan swaying
 Turning into a river junction.<sup>89</sup>

# LITTAG

Atuka ru Patintinunduhay Uway'uway bakkuta.

#### SNARE

87 You guess what it is Walking in a single file They are all hunchbacks.<sup>90</sup>

<sup>88.</sup> The young bamboo shoot has sheaths which peel off as it matures.

<sup>89.</sup> The leech in its search for prey stands on its distal end moving to and fro, so the figure, and when it does find a host it sucks the blood which flows into its body, creating the second figure in this riddle.

<sup>90.</sup> See a simpler riddle in No. 25, ante.

### LOKKOB

Ibpamu'a ku ka'ungkay Simag abbarutang kud.

Pamu'a ru ta mapon Na atin sallom nabarutan don.

Pamu'atat mapon Barutan tat sallom.

### DOOR

- 88a I planted it today To harvest it tomorrow.
- 88b You plant it in the afternoon But in the morning it is pulled out.
- 88c We plant it in the afternoon We pull it out in the morning.

#### LUMANSAD

Pomontu'ang ka dava' Pomonwit ka daya'.

ROOSTER

89 Stoning fish downstream Hooking it upstream.<sup>91</sup>

#### **MAHINTA'UNAN**

Uripon ka'ay ta datu' na mama' Na kannad kuwa' kabbayaran Su mama's rad kibbayad.

# WILD CHICKEN TAMED FOR CATCHING OTHER WILD CHICKENS

90 This datu has a male slave Who does not want to be paid in cash But another male in kind.<sup>92</sup>

92. The male slave here is the decoy used in baiting other wild chickens, that is, another slave if the datu (the trapper) catches one.

<sup>91.</sup> When a rooster or chicken pecks, the first part of the riddle is described; but as it does so its tail goes up and this is seen as fishing with hook and line. A Bagobo fisherman when he sees a fish under a stone would knock that stone with another if he could not reach it with his hand, and this with the intention of crushing it.

#### MILITAN UWOY ANAK DIN

Atukaw Sanga lippan battung Ma'ura: kidsavang.

91

## MOTHER AND CHILDREN

Guess what it is Two arm-lengths of stream It has many junctions.

#### MANUK

Disok poron Duwon don tangku':

Atin dinit daya' panikop Dinit dava' pamunuwit.

## CHICKEN

- 92 Although it is small It already wears a headdress.<sup>93</sup>
- 93 If upstream he fishes with hands If downstream he fishes with a hook.<sup>94</sup>

## MANGOVAY

Anay karisakkay ku Na wara' ku nasarolli' Sa pansamuk tagmaya'an.

#### MAIDEN or YOUNG GIRL

94 Sicne I was born
 I have not known
 How to guard against maya birds.<sup>95</sup>

<sup>93.</sup> It is the man who wears a headdress in Bagobo society, and he may start wearing it in his adolescent years, when reaching seventeen or eighteen. At an earlier period, however, he may have demonstrated exceptional bravery by killing enemies, in which case he is allowed to wear a maroon or red headdress with designs made by tiedyeing.

<sup>94.</sup> Although differently worded, this is similar to Riddle No. 89 above.

<sup>95.</sup> The subject of the riddle is not even hinted at. The maya birds are supposed to be young men who might molest or carry off a young woman guarded by her parents, the one speaking in this riddle being the father.

MATA'

Aruwan anak Na budtuk ta iddakko: Wara' nakagkita'.

Anak na aruwa' Abaparivaoy yet buvungan Kanna' mabpakadkita'.

Idda ron Ini ron.

## EYES

95a They are two siblings Who since their birth Have not seen each other.

- 95b There are two siblings Living on each side of a mountain Never seeing each other.
- 96 It is there now It is here now.

## MINUVU' NABPATAY

Kavukarat tuvangon Na ipat allang ka'umpad.

## DYING PERSON

97 The flower of the *tuvangon* rattan Falls every day.

# MONO: UWOY PATIYUKAN Ka:sag ta anitu' Adsambayat katu:san.

#### HAWK AND BEEHIVE

98 The shield of the anitu'<sup>96</sup>
Was borrowed by the katu:san bird.<sup>97</sup>

<sup>96.</sup> Benevolent spirit who looks after the welfare of man. I have heard it pronounced anittu sometimes.

<sup>97.</sup> Hawks are known to snatch chunks of the beehive which is symbolized by the shield of the *anitu*' in the riddle.

# NGARAN TA MINUVU' NIBPATAY Agkapilay inis balite' Nagka'abburon kas lawa' Na duwon poron kas da da'ún din.

## NAME OF A DEAD PERSON

99 When a balite tree falls
 Its trunk decays
 But its leaves will still be there.98

#### NGIPON

Kapilay inis as'as As'as dad kagkaraggan.

## TEETH

100 When these logs drop They hit other logs.

## NGUWOG

Atin adtupang mananoy Atin adtakaddog masi'apat.

#### MUCUS

101 When it goes down the slope it is slow When it goes up the slope it moves fast.<sup>99</sup>

#### PA'A'

Ta: suwod Wa' tapid Ad'unna'.

## LEGS

102 There are two brothers Neither of them Walks ahead of each other.

## PANSA:

Sannob inis kanakan Adlappaw ron ka u': rin.

<sup>98.</sup> Although a person may die, his name will still live in the memory of the people.

<sup>99.</sup> Children allow the slimy mucus to ooze down their nostrills and when it has gone so far below suddenly inhale it back into the nostrills, instead of wiping it.

NAIL

103 When this young man dives His head still shows out.

# PANU'AN

Atuka ru sa Anak pa'awngutay Uwoy'uwoy ngoggan.

#### PANU'AN SHRUB

104 You guess what it is Children sitting together All of them have mucus.<sup>100</sup>

## PANUMPA'

Sa:rong diyat pattad Kannab panabtab diyat pattad Su diyan ta da:ma' abpanabtab.

TWEEZER

105 The deer in the plain Would not graze in the lowland But would nibble up in the cliff.<sup>101</sup>

## PANGAT SA:RONG

Tongtongngan du nahangu' Atin adtipakan du melaw.

Tongtongngan du Tungannu' Gorali' adtipakan du Melaw man.

#### ANTLER

106a When you look at it it is a dead tree But when you chop it it is a live one.

106b When you look at it It is a dead tree

<sup>100.</sup> The shrub has a trunk as large as the thumb and bears small fruits which grow on the roots, the fruits containing a slimy substance which is sweet.

<sup>101.</sup> The riddler interprets the cliff here as the chin or the parts around the mouth. The Bagobo tweezer is made of bronze or copper which people make themselves out of broken gongs.

#### BAGOBO RIDDLES

## The moment you chop it It is alive again.

## PANGA:WAG

Layang si kappikappi' Agkatutungan sa langit.

RED SKY OR CLOUDS

107 When kappikappi' flew<sup>102</sup> The sky began to burn.

## PANGOTTOB

Kammas ni buwa:kaw Na duwon poron kaungkay.

## TATTOO

108 The footprints of Buwa:kaw<sup>103</sup> Are still there to this day.

## PARAKU:

Adlayang inis limukon Adlatambag kadlaton.

AX

109 When this *limukon* bird flies It sings as it perches.<sup>104</sup>

#### PASSUNGAN

Singkabong si dayadnak Naddinog ka sanga suhud.

Ad'ukalu' si natarin Nadtavak si natalobpi' Nadtavak si natalobpi' Natalobpi' ta dallag Na natarin ta bala'as.

<sup>102.</sup> Kappi' is hawk, but is duplicated here to simulate the sun; the metaphor is intended to describe the burning cloud set afire by the glowing sinking sun.

<sup>103.</sup> This name appears only in Bagobo folklore; I have not found it actually used as a personal name by the people.

<sup>104.</sup> The picture described here is that of the ax being swung against a tree, the swizzing tool culminating in an impact, thus creating the sound described as singing while the ax is driven into the wood and so perches there. The *limukon* is used as a bird of augury.

#### POUNDING BLOCK<sup>105</sup>

- 110 Dayadnak playing with both hands on the water<sup>106</sup>
   Could be heard in another hill.
- 111 Natarin is crowing Natalobpi' answers The condemned one on the plateau Is lost among the bushes.<sup>107</sup>

## PATIYUKAN

Ka:sag ni apu' Naggannayhannay ka upung.

Bava'oy inis anak Kanna rabpakakampot ka guwos din.

Mappiya' nagkannon Na matoggas nad'angayon.

106. Dayadnak is a personal name in the riddle, not now used by the people.

107. The sound from the *passungan* board is considered lost as it travels in space until it reaches an obstacle when it is considered condemned, because as the echo, which is feeble in comparison, travels back it is finally lost among the bushes. The Bagobos prefer to build their houses on tops of hills or sides of mountains and not in deep valleys, so gong and *passungan* playing could be heard at great distances.

There is a deep and expressive interplay of words and meanings in this riddle threaded like beads by the *passungan* sound, so that another rendition becomes tempting:

> The lost one is crowing The condemned one answering The condemned one of the plateau Is lost amongst the bushes.

<sup>105.</sup> The *passungan* is a sounding board on which the mortar or mortars are set. As the pounders hull the rice a musical sound is emitted by the impact not only of the pestle against the mortar but doubly so by the latter against the *passungan* board. The sonorous notes are deafening but as these are echoed back by the hills and mountains, they keep the work more lively and enjoyable. Men do not pound rice, pounding being the work of women. A flat stone is sometimes placed at one end of the board to add to the percussion sound as the women pound.

#### BEEHIVE

- 112 The shield of grandfather Has trappings that move about.<sup>108</sup>
- 113 This young man is building a house His fastening does not reach around.<sup>109</sup>
- 114 It is delicious to eat But difficult to secure.

## PATTUNG

Onday kadsuliyuk ki ta'?

#### POST

115 Who is spearing us from below?

### PAYUS

Ad'ipanaw inis anak Na anay rabpakaponog Nabpapa'u ron.

## CANE

116 This child leaves on a journey The moment he is on the ground He starts kicking.

#### PAYYAT

Sagengke' wara' pa'a' Na saut wara' paningting.

## PAYYAT FISH<sup>110</sup>

117 Strutting without feet Dancing without ankles.

<sup>108.</sup> The Bagobo shield is decorated with horsehair around it and is compared to the beehive puckered by moving bees, the picture conveyed being that of a moving shield as the horsehair flaps in the wind and the bees creating the impression that the beehive is moving as they flutter about.

<sup>109.</sup> The beehive is attached to the tree or branch on one side only, so the basis of the riddle.

<sup>110.</sup> A small freshwater fish with white scale and, on this account, probably selected because it could be seen conspicuously leaping in the water.

## PILAKPILAK

Pa'umpossoy ini anak Kanna mabpakad'o:ggoy.

EYELASH

118 These children beat one another Without anyone being defeated.

#### PINGGAN

Anak na atin abpakannon du Nibpo:mpad du; Na atin abpaka'impus Nad'uli' ron tid'ubpan din.

PLATE OR DISH

119 This child when you feed him You have to put him down; But when he is through He will return to his place.

#### POAS

Sangga'at ta minatay Na ba'ag ta makatangon.

LIZARD

120 It is the g-string of the dead And loin cloth that is fastened.<sup>111</sup>

## PONGGOANG

Atuka ru Kawkambo' ta niyug Na kalo'ko' ta mamo'on.

SHELL BRACELET

121 Guess what it is Buds of the coconut tree Sheath of the betel nut tree.<sup>112</sup>

<sup>111.</sup> I did not see any g-string nor loin cloth in 1956 when I was on the Dallag plateau, but I was told that fishermen do use it when engaged in fishing. The streaked lizard is compared to the striped loin cloth, and since the lizard's marks are permanent the riddler carries that feature in the second line.

<sup>112.</sup> The shell bracelet, with all its whiteness and natural design,

## PONGPONG

Pulangi' nakapangkat Dagat nakapagolot.

Pulangi' nakatangkad Dagat nakapagolot.

WATER IN THE HOLLOW OF TREES

122a A Pulangi' river in an isolated place A sea found in the middle.

122b A Pulangi' river found up above A sea found in the middle.

## PU:NG

Pa:viyan ta dongngan Uwoy gantangan ta ka'ungkay.

## WORK

123 It is our custom of the past And our measure of today.

#### PUSOD

Orak toktok du?

UMBILICAL HOLE

124 What hole do you have in your body?

## SAHING

Ad'imatayan inis malitan Aggatton da kas anak din.

## BANANA PLANTS

125 This woman will be killed Her children will be spared.<sup>113</sup>

## SA:KOY

Yavag si mahivay Na dumapon da'ut tohop Dapon da'ut kinarom.

is compared to the coconut buds and the betel-nut tree sheath in the imagination of the Bagobo. It is worn by both women and men.

<sup>113.</sup> A banana plant with mature bunch of fruits is cut down (i.e., killed), but the surrounding shoots are "spared" to bloom and bear fruits.

#### HEADDRESS

126 Mahivay took to its wings<sup>114</sup> Alighting on a *tohop* leaf Resting on kinarom leaves.<sup>115</sup>

#### SALLOY

Atuka Tigatiga' tu'ungtu'ung Tunas ta lumbiya'an.

SALLOY EARRING

127 Guess what it isTwinkling like a fireflyA stem it is of the *lumbiya'an* tree.<sup>116</sup>

## SAYAP<sup>117</sup>

Ko:glahan ta datu' Kannag ka'ayon kidsanggat Udsag ka'ayon Kigpa'unsad duwot sa:g.

HAT

128 The suitcase of the datu It is not good to hang But it could be done If set on the floor.

## SIGGANG

Palinglingutay inis kanakan Uwoy'uwoy avu'an.

> STOVE OF THREE STONE-HEADS 129 Sitting together these young men Are all covered with ashes.

117. Saruk was the first answer to this riddle which is the Bukidnon term for hat made of anahaw palm leaves. Since there is a Bagobo term sayap for the same object, the latter was preferred. The sayap hat is like the Tagalog salakot, although I did not see one on the Dallag

<sup>114.</sup> Personified name used in riddles and folk stories only.

<sup>115.</sup> Cf. Riddle No. 70 about the flying squirrel, ante. The tohop leaf refers to the head and the kinarom leaves to the hair, kinarom being a tree the leaves of which being used for dyeing fibers black.

<sup>116.</sup> The salloy is an ear-plug made from the root of the *lumbiya'an* tree; it is encrusted with bronze, silver, or gold which makes it shiny, so the figure of the firefly.

#### BAGOBO RIDDLES

SIKU'

Duwon manuk naddakappan du Na atin ad'aruwanan du Taddakop na kannad ka'uta: Na atin adsakaddan du Na adka'uta:

ELBOW

130 There is a bird you can catch If you use your two hands You would not catch it; But if you do it with one hand Then you would catch it.

## SIMAT

Mid'attut sa pa:vasan Nad'abbas ta luyung.

Atuka ru Abpehes ini antig Ad'abbas ta luyung.

Pa'u' inis antig Abpaka'abbas ta luyung.

Agkatipon iddas datu' Na kannag katapus ka tongko' Ka kanna' ad'ihuma' iddas anak.

NEEDLE

- 131a The salamander moved its hot air It passed through the base-roots.
- 131b You guess what it is The cries of this frog Could pass through the base-roots.
- 131c This frog kicked Coming out of the base-roots.
- 132 All the datus are there assembled But they could not reach an agreement If that child does not arrive.<sup>118</sup>

plateau and other areas, the reason given being that the anahaw palm tree has become very rare in these places.

<sup>118.</sup> The pieces that make up a dress may be prepared, but without a needle no dress can be made.

SINAPANG Taw'angay ta dallag Marahing nabbadturon.

GUN

133 A reed on the plateauA loud sound it makes when pulled.<sup>119</sup>

#### SUSU'

Binibitoy na bidas Na bitayon na miyadoy.

NIPPLES

134 Hanging bidas fruits Suspend from miyadoy.<sup>120</sup>

#### TABBU'

Sakaddu' ni apu' Kannad kaitis.

Atukaw sa Sinupan apu' Na kannag ka'itis.

Panakaddu' sa ratu' Sanga tiro reen Ad'itisan du Kannag ka'itis.

A, diyadiya di' Lumbad don Kas miyaroy. A, diyadiya di' Swaying now Like miyaroy.

<sup>119.</sup> The older folks know a type of gun called bigkangan (also known as sa:vintun), which is lighted to explode it (which I never saw). This gun was secured from the Moros. It appears that sinapang covers all sorts of guns known to the Bagobo people, this term being used in the folklore, the proboscis of the shrimp being taken for the sinapang, gun.

<sup>120.</sup> The bidas fruits are not edible, but attract attention because they sway from the branches. *Miyadoy* has a synonym *miyaroy* which is used for calling girls when boys or men are poking holes in the ground preparatory to depositing seeds in them. Therefore the term here has a double meaning which may refer to the fruits or the nipples, thus making the suggestion intriguing. There is a lullabye which starts like this, as the baby is lulled to sleep in her cradle:

#### SUGARCANE

- 135a Grandfather's water-tube Cannot spill.
- 135b Guess what it is Grandfather's bamboo receptacle It cannot spill.
- 135c The datu fetched water With only one long tube If you pour it out It will not spill.

TAGUNGGU' UWOY GIBBA: Simba:non Sayon sa:rong.

# GONG AND DRUM PLAYING 136 Beating it

The deer dances.<sup>121</sup>

## TALINGA'

Atuka ru sa Manuk na uhis Adtangtangngan du na maila' Nabpurutan du na maitik.

Tangtangngan du Kanna rub kakita' Boyang dud kasaralli' Kabpurutan dud.

## EARS

- 137 You guess what it is There is a white bird When you look at it it is very wild But when you hold it it is very tame.
- 138 When you look at itYou cannot see itBut you know it is thereWhen you hold it.

<sup>121.</sup> The Bagobos usually make the deer skin as drumhead. As the drum is beaten the skin vibrates, which vibration in the imaginative mind of the riddler is the deer dancing.

TAVANGAW Bingkulan luyung makaw Puti' malayanglayang.

TAVANGAW VINE<sup>122</sup>

When you tap the buttress roots of the makaw 139 tree

Whites fly about.

#### TAVAKU'

Pamu'a' ku dikuman Na kanna ta ra' agkannon Subpakira'unan ta ra'.

TOBACCO

143 I planted dikuman<sup>123</sup> We do not eat it But use its leaves only.

## TAVU:WAN

Tavu'un apu' Na kannag kasambayan.

WASP

It is grandfather's receptacle 141 Which cannot be borrowed.

# **TEHENOPPON**

Bonna: romman Uvat domman.

#### DREAM

142True it is sometimes False it is sometimes,

## TITIKON

Tibbasan du le:ngngu' Alin dutun le:ngngu'.

<sup>122.</sup> The vine itself is used for shampooing and soaping the body. Its seeds have white cotton-like wings.

<sup>123.</sup> Dikuman is a creation of the riddler for its sound effect as its ending is in consonance with the ending of agkannon in the second line.

#### BAGOBO RIDDLES

## STEEL-FLINT FIRE MAKING APPARATUS 143 When you slash him it sparks When you strike it again it sparks.

## TO'AN

Ikat'ikat ta maya' Ikat ta tama'uyan Kannad savut ta nandu'.

## QUIPU: KNOTTED STRING FOR REMEMBERING DATES OR NUMBERS

144 It is a knotted leash of the maya The string of the tama'uyan bird We do not know when it ends.<sup>124</sup>

#### TUYYANG

Ad'ipanaw ini datu' Nadtiyang ta pangassu' Agkasuggung ta na kanna taman igkava:kki' Atin kasuat na igkava:kki ta.

Atin ad'imatay agkasu'at Atin adtamballak ta pangassu' rin Kannad imatay.

Atidlahinat malivutut Atid'a'unsad ma'oweet.

Atin ad'ilogga' inis anak Ad'a'u:nat buvun din.

#### DOG

145a When this datu' departs He carries with him a spear When we meet him we are not afraid of him; But when he laughs we begin to fear.<sup>125</sup>

<sup>124.</sup> Contracting parties usually make use of the *toan* to remember when the date is due for the performance of their obligations, but outside of the parties no one else would seem to know the end or last day of the agreement.

<sup>125.</sup> The tail stands for the spear, and when the dog opens its mouth, the Bagobo riddler translates this as laughing.

- 145b If he laughs he feels mad But when he shakes his spear He is not going to kill.
- 146 When he stands up he is short When he sits down he becomes tall.
- 147 When this child sleeps He uses his thigh for a pillow.

## TUYYANG NAGGABBU' TA BAVUY

Kalilid ini gatung Nadtinunduhon tagkakak.

## DOG CATCHING A WILD HOG

148 As this stone rolls

It is followed by a cackling sound.<sup>126</sup>

#### UMPAK

Ka'aruwa' kidsikop Kasakkad kid'usok.

## JACKET

149 We put in our hands twice And we go in once.

#### U:NAN

Lammin anak nidtabbaw Na kasakkad da agka'an.

## PILLOW

150 A newly born child Who eats only once.<sup>127</sup>

## UPUS

Atuka ru Kas mangovay nadpasuva' Namatag don agga'ún Kanna' mabpandappug.

127. When one makes a pillow, it is stuffed only once.

<sup>126.</sup> As the hog runs to escape, it is followed by a barking dog.

CAT

151 You guess what it is Like a girl going upstream Who later comes home Never washing her face.

#### URAN

Gassa' ni apu' Na kannad kavilang.

Gassan apu' Kannag kavilang.

#### RAIN

152a The arrows of grandfather That cannot be counted.

152b The arrows of grandfather Cannot be counted.

#### UVA:

Sa:nayt binitbitan Na iyan dad paka'angay Ka kanakat idta'ilan.

#### MONKEY

153 The rattan fruits of Binitbitan The only one who could get them Is the young man from Idta'ilan.<sup>128</sup>

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<sup>128.</sup> Both Binitbitan and Idta'ilan are folkloristic names, used here for their rhythmic effect.

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