

# **BUNNAKÉ**

• **Atta Riddle Book**

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**SUMMER INSTITUTE OF LINGUISTICS-PHILIPPINES, INC.**  
**TRANSLATORS** **PUBLISHERS**

**1970**

Published  
in cooperation with  
Bureau of Public Schools  
and  
Institute of National Language  
of the  
Department of Education  
Manila, Philippines

## FOREWORD

Some of the glory of the Philippines lies in the beautiful variety of people and languages within its coasts. It is to the great credit of the national leadership over the years that no attempt has been made to destroy this national heritage. The goal has been instead to preserve its integrity and dignity while building on this strong foundation a lasting super-structure of national language and culture.

The present book is one of many designed for this purpose. It recognizes the pedagogical importance of dividing literacy and second-language learning into two steps -- literacy being the first. When a student has learned to read the language he understands best, the resulting satisfaction in his accomplishment gives the drive and confidence he needs to learn the national language. His ability to read, furthermore, is the indispensable tool for the study this program will require.

The Department of Education of the Philippines is proud to present this latest volume in a nationwide series designed to teach the national language through literacy in the vernaculars. It will strengthen both the parts of the nation and the whole.

ONOFRE D. CORPUZ

Secretary

## PREFACE

Bunnakè in English means 'Guess it!' Here are 79 riddles which the Atta (Negrito) people have preserved in their oral tradition. Several are translations from other dialects.

The Atta language is a language spoken by the Negrito people of Northern Cagayan Province. It has a high degree of intelligibility with Ibanag of Cagayan Province.

This volume is published for the Atta people, for the purpose of arousing the interest of Atta adults in learning to read, and to give reading practise to new literates. Most of the Atta adults are pre-literates, not having had the privilege of attending public school, and a number of them are now able to read.

An idiomatic English translation is provided. This will make the book more useful to educators and anthropologists who are interested in Atta folk tradition.

The cover design is one of several patterns used by Atta women to decorate their utility baskets which they weave of bark stripped from native reeds and vines. The central portion of the design is called sinassiku, meaning 'elbow pattern'. It is bordered by the design called sinammata, 'eye pattern'.

Isiddà ku yù bastok ku.

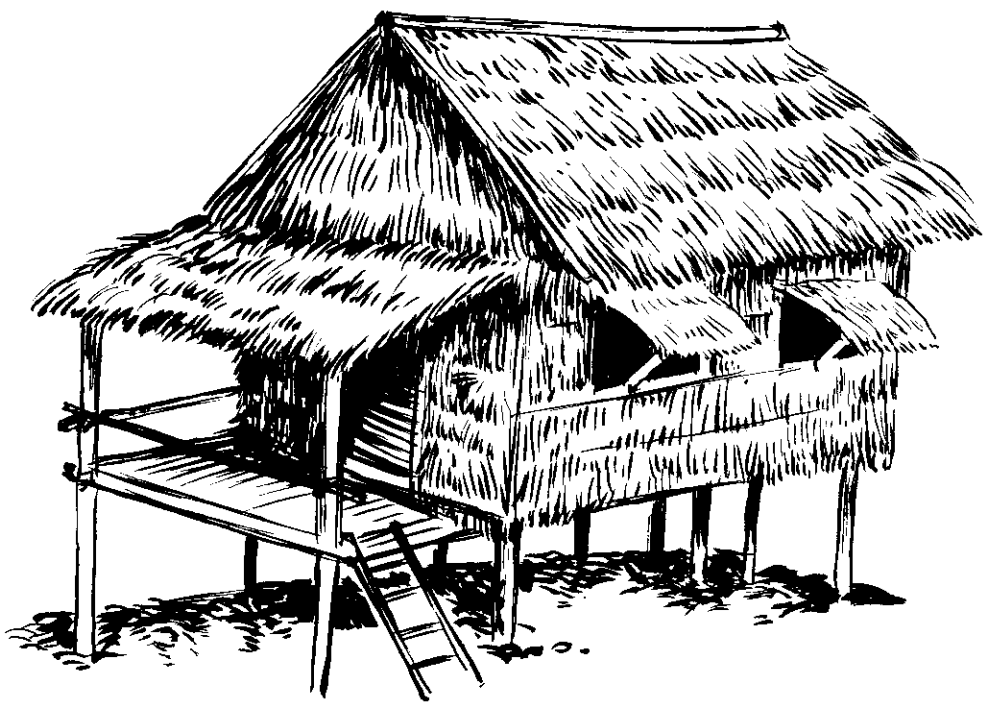
Guddù ngámin kákkapárák ku.



Mamagon.

Appíl nu gabi.

Lattù nu ággaw.

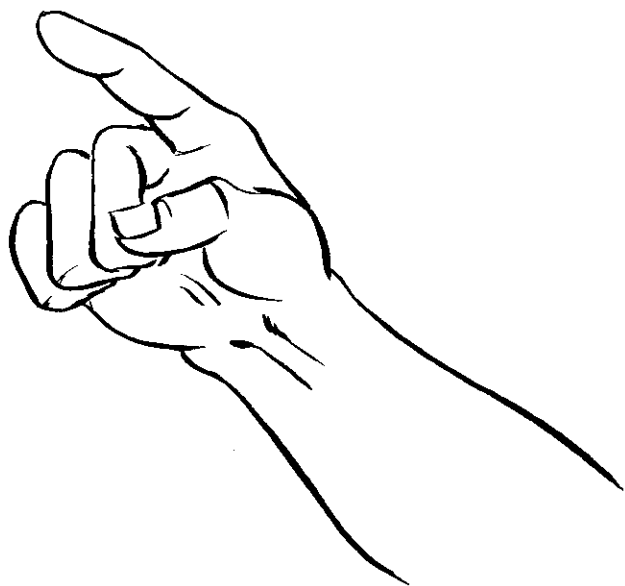


Bintá.



Yúrin ye!

Ari gemmá makasingan!



Amissusuddu.

Ari masingan nu marenu.

Karubbután, pakasinganám mu.



Paddák.

Naporay si anâ na.

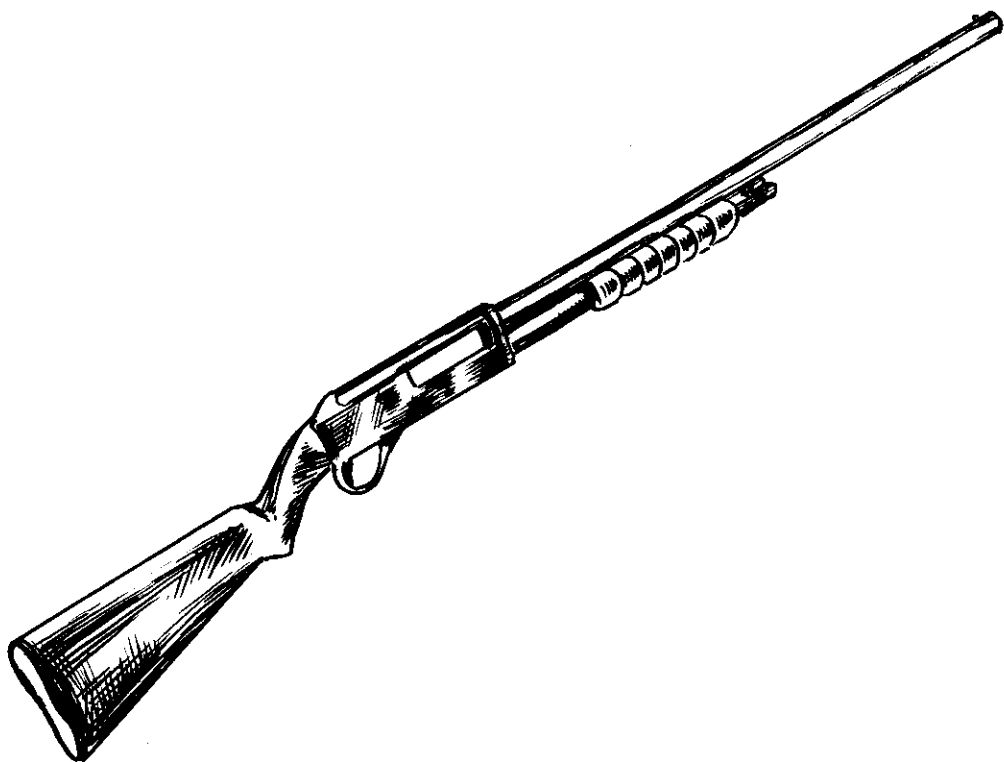
Masippà si innò na.



Mimì.

Nabbugaw si innò.

Naggápù yù anâ na.



Paláttuk.



Ajjan mángin si amiling.

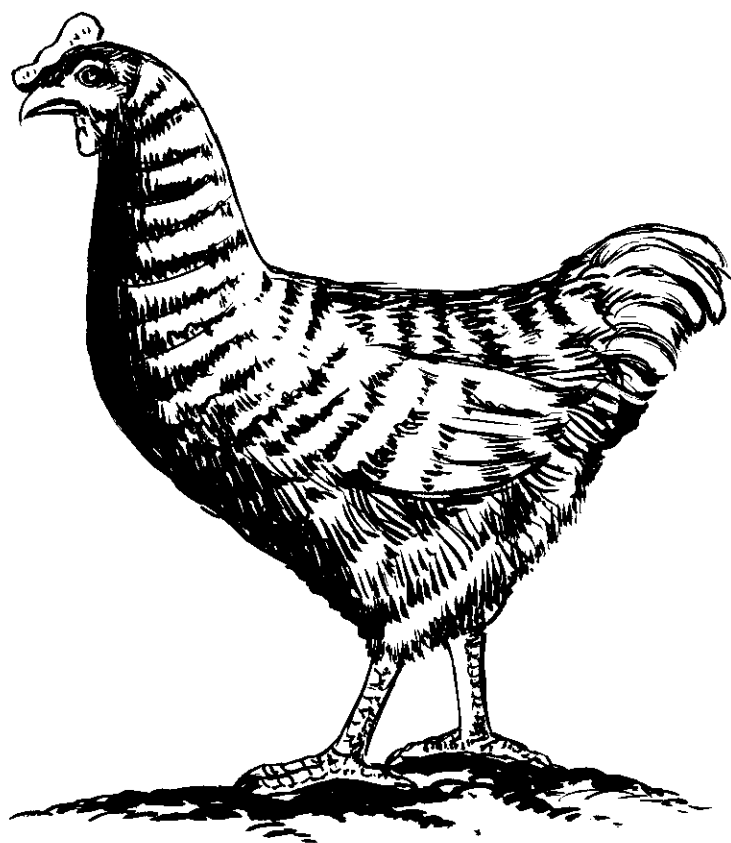
Ipammate tam ngámin.



Gabi.

Ajjan pinarò ni Apu

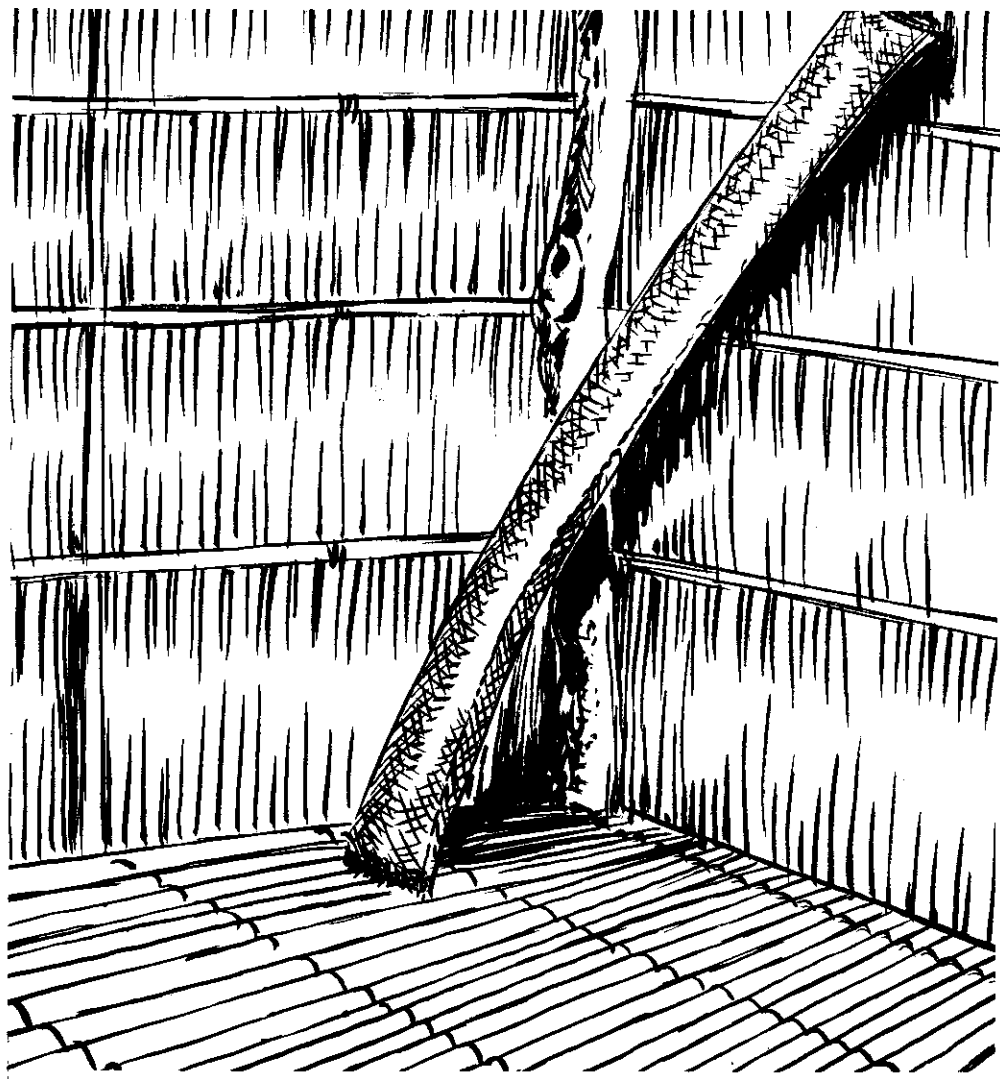
Nga dipuru tuláng bibik na.



Manù.

Pinâ nu gabi.

Bátang nu ággaw.



Dapan.

Tubbatam mu yù jigu.

Makkarerá sinunu.



Barangay.



Nu bagu, naláray.

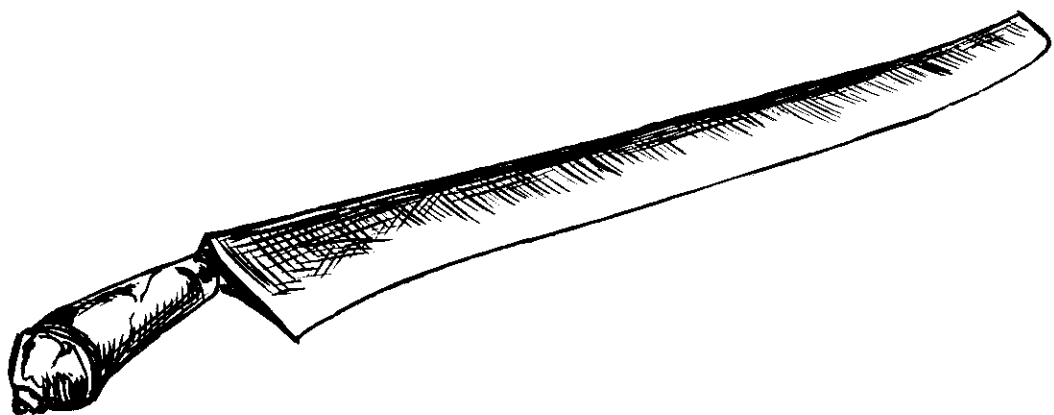
Nu dánin, naláddá.



Lupè.

Pinâ gadduá na.

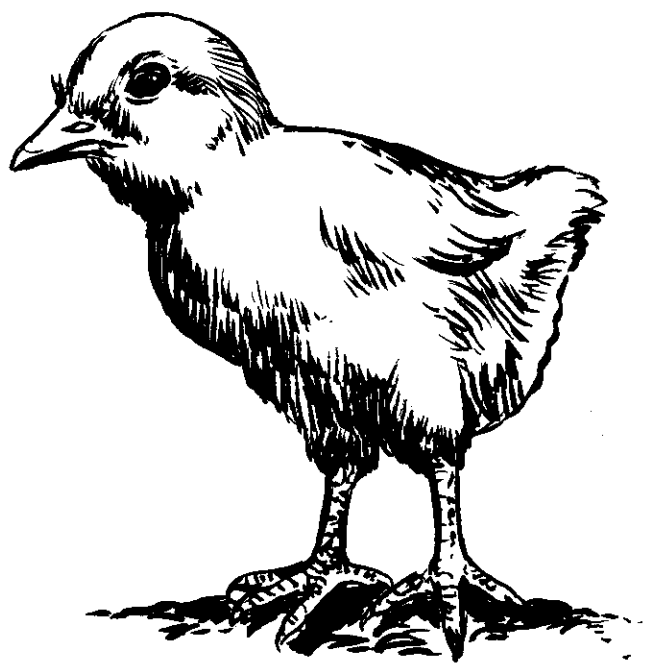
Bátang gadduá na.



Badang.

Nu baddì, abbúnan na yù ngágan na.

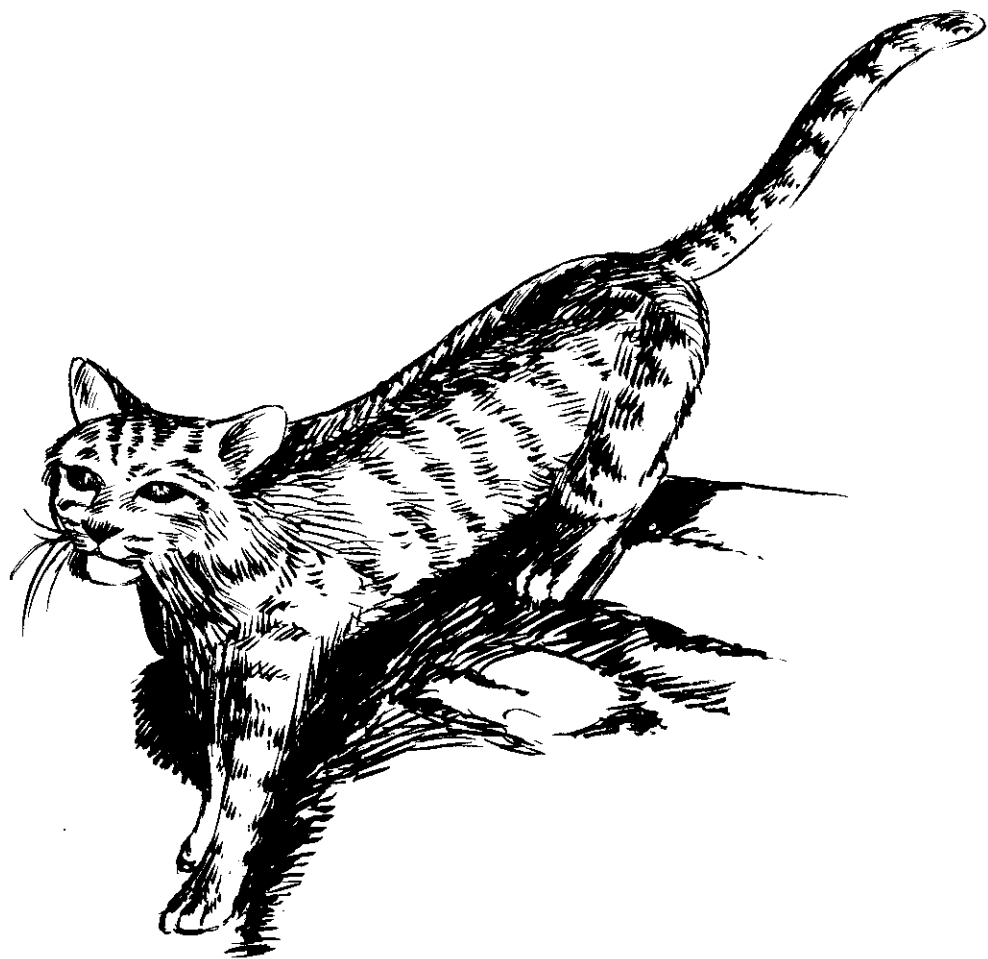
Nu dakalin, arán na ammu.



Píyà.

Ajjan pinarò na Dios.

Ikássing na yù ngágan na.



Kusá.



Sù kabajjì na, apoppò.

Nu dakalin, pátaƙin.



Áttá.

Ari kumán

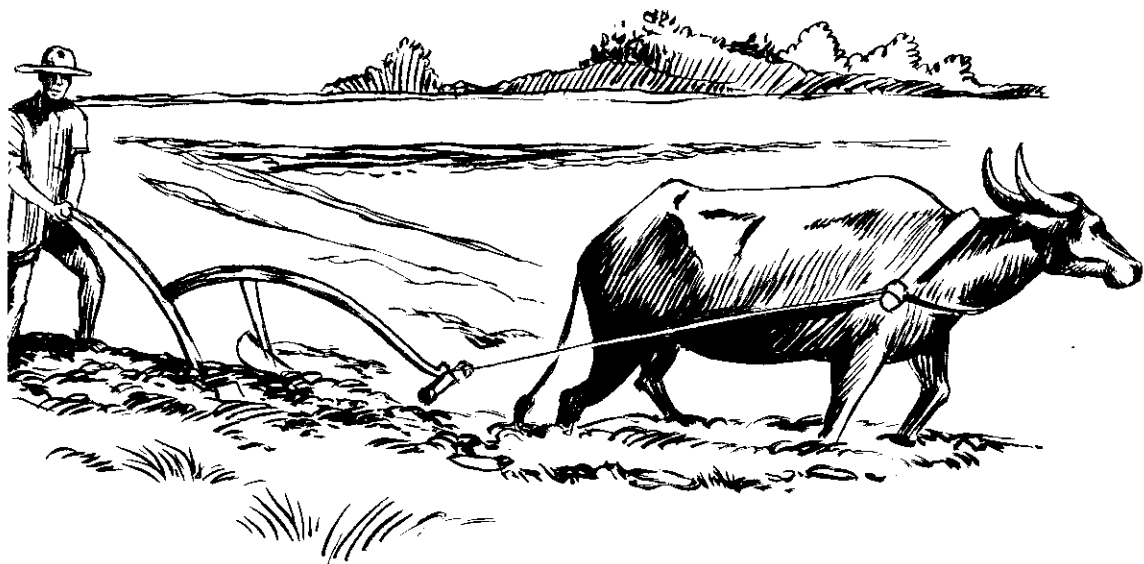
Nu arám mu palutan.



Aggabbu.

Mapolu ka,

Ta maporiánà.



Arádu anna nuáng.

Asinni makkábbaddabaddù

Nga mawwawági?

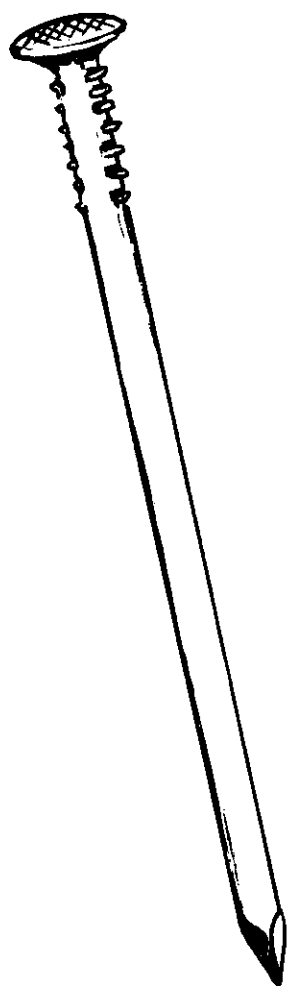


Kimâ.



Áppekà mattuttù.

Masingan ga ulù.



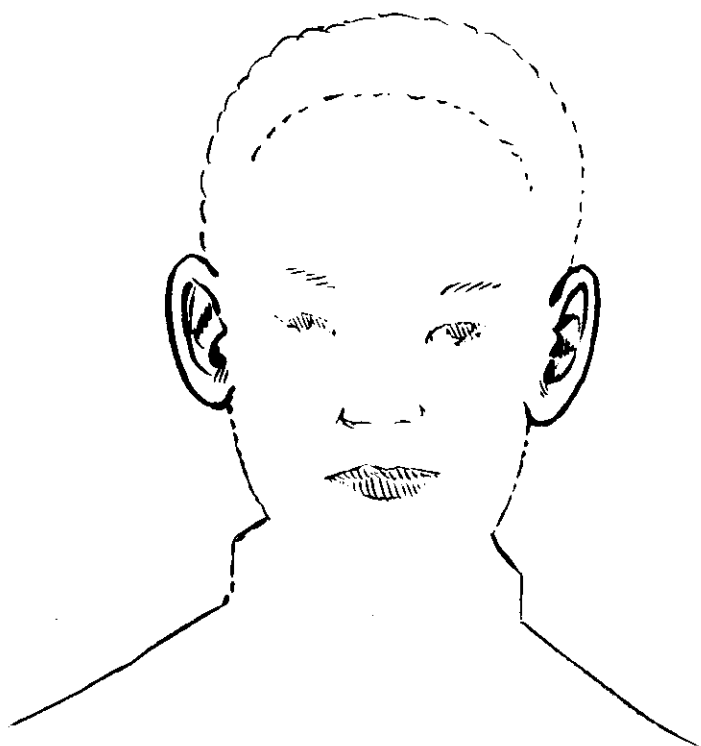
Pátà.

Gilalákabán daggá.



Kuku.

Asinni ira massílikuk nga mawwagi?

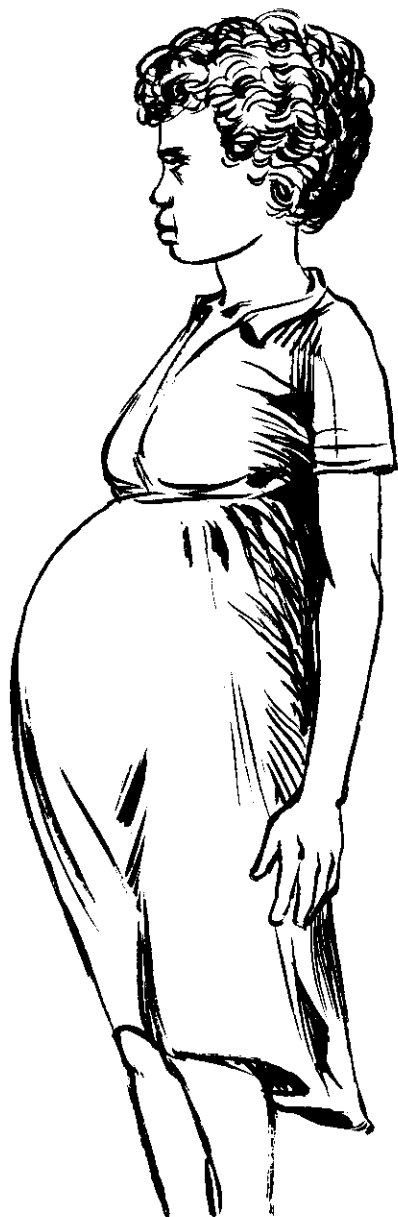


Talingá.

Binungun ta binungun.

Nabungun ta berdi sinnun.

Ari malabbalabbún.



Mabussi.



Nappangá, naddon, nallappáw.

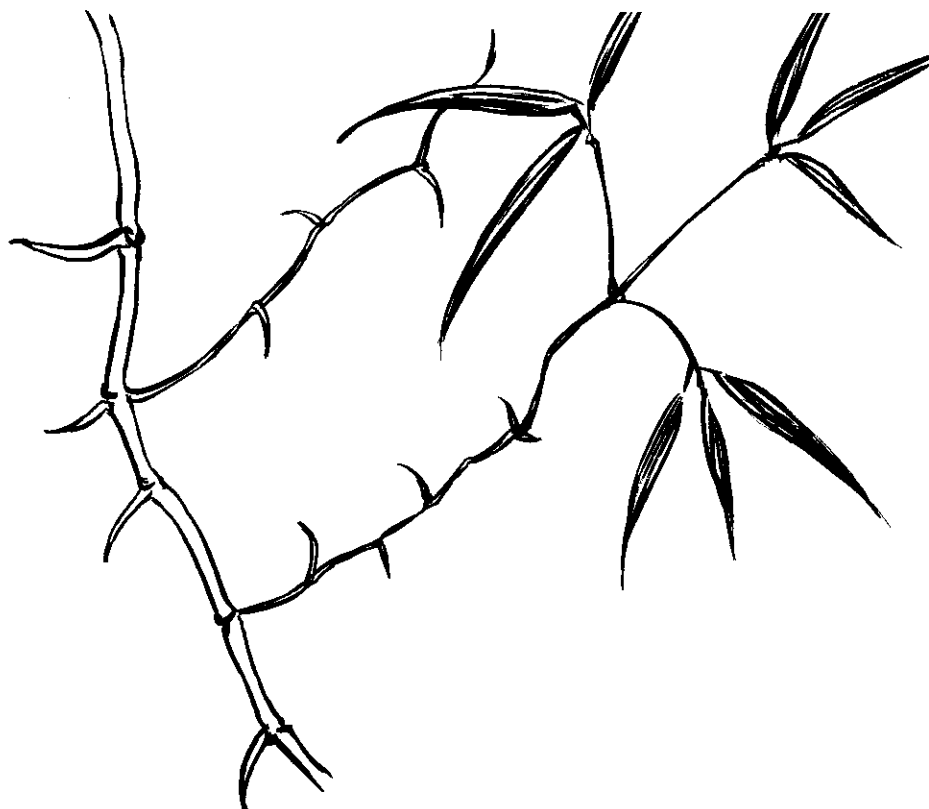
Ngam ari gemmá mabbungá.



Kawáyan.

Ari makakagerán.

Gowang na kammaránán.



Bayuk.

Gibibesinán.

Kámmengalán.



Sili.

Naggitigiting don na.

Donggalì bungá na.

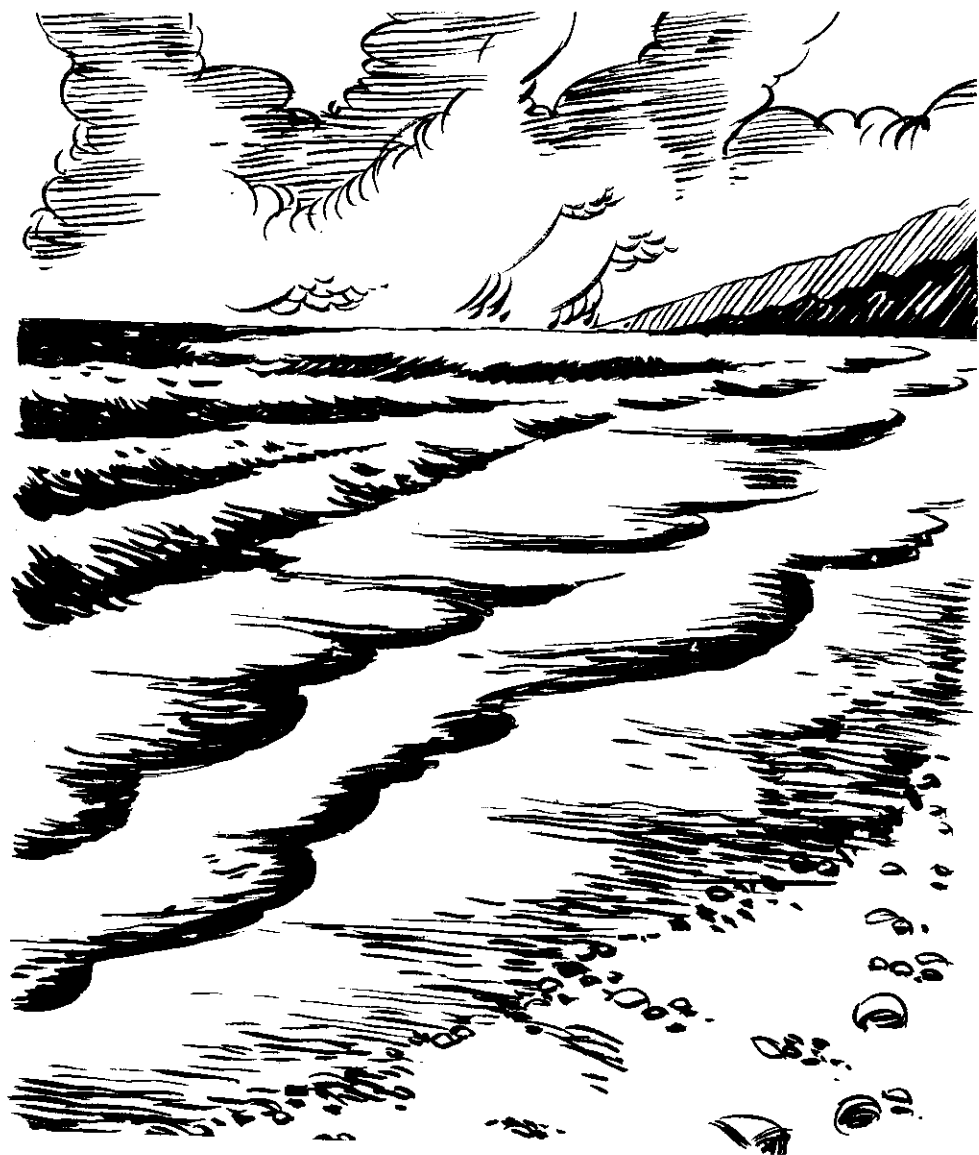


Pinniá.



Ajjan yù kabáyu nga kabáng.

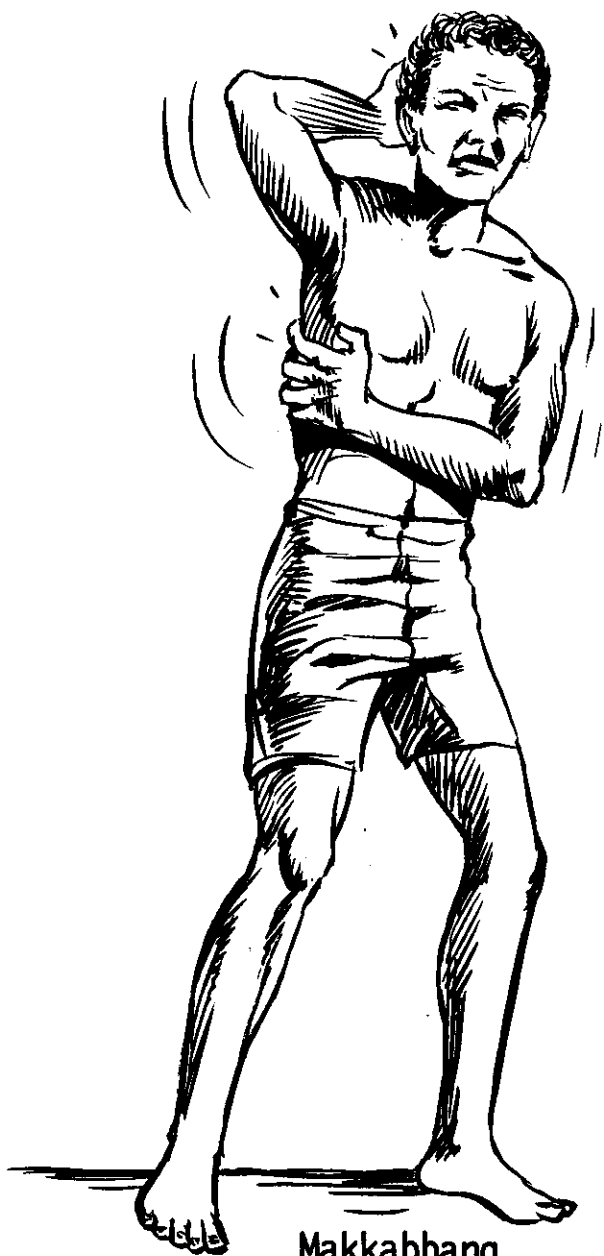
Ari makabakabayuán.



Palung.

Ajjan baddi nga kunam.

Makabannay ta nákam.



Makkabbang.

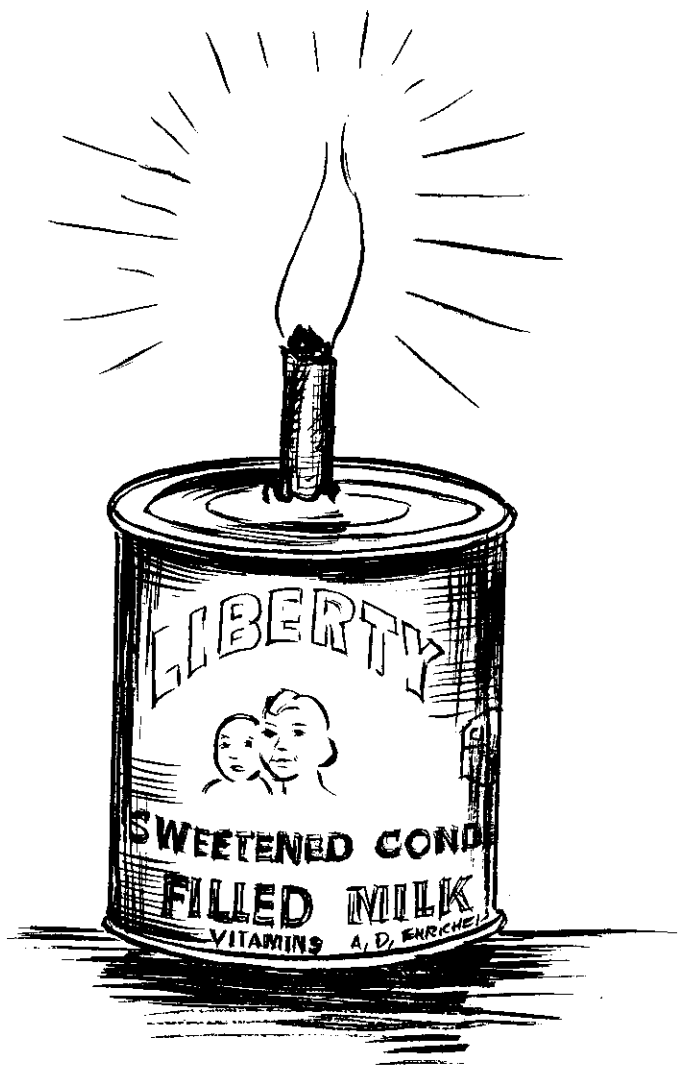
Gapu ta Áttángà,  
Naggiánà ta unak na káyu.  
Lállaguk ta nallawánà,  
Gapuák ku yù nabbalabalikâ.



Lápis.

Nábbatán yù danumin.

Natay yù dagguákin.

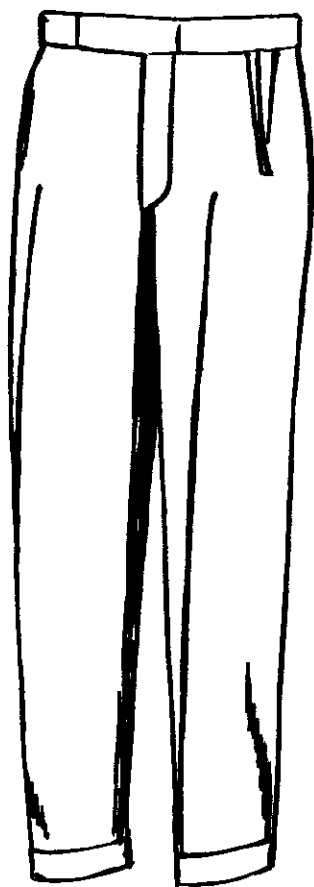


Isingan.



Ajjan kabáyù nga nakabbalin.

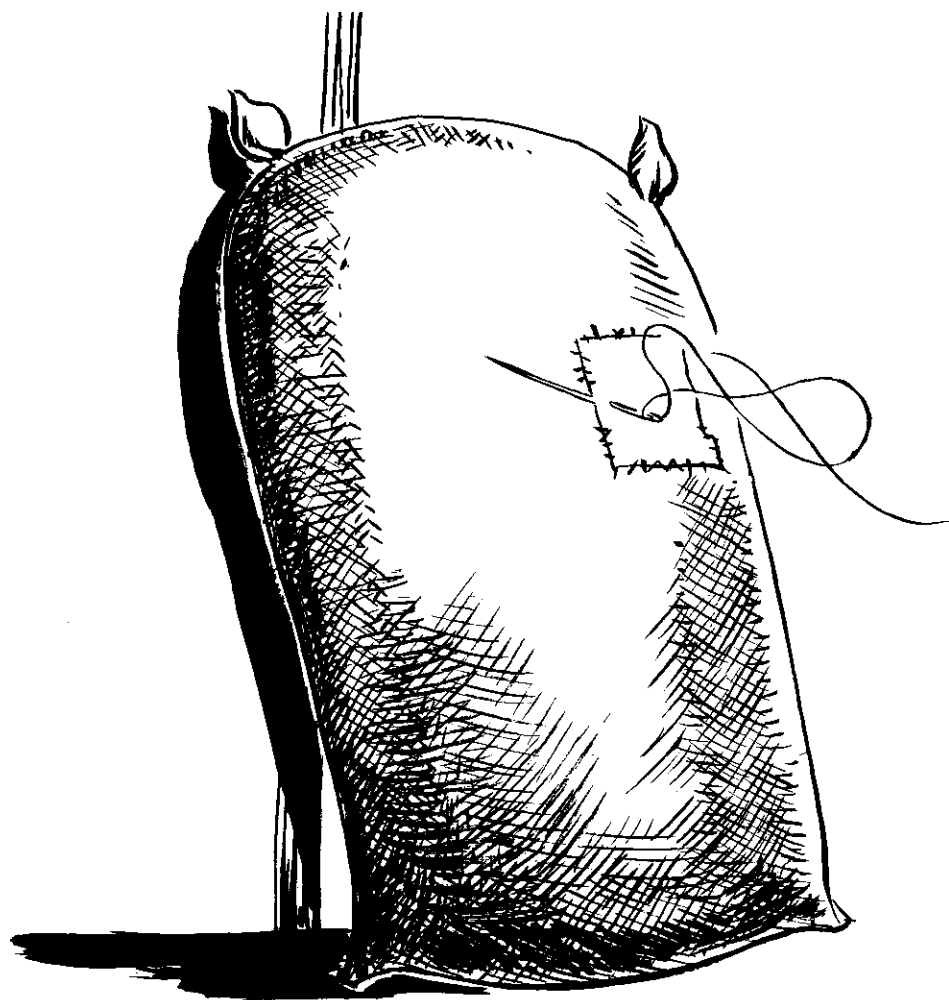
Pakkabayuák ku, á matabá ngin.



**Pantalon.**

**Ajjan tádday nga bakabákà.**

**Battán na, magisurusurà.**



Dágum.

Duddun ka tán,

Ta ajjan mapannákà.



Appang.

Ajjan baddi nga bubuk ku ta utun.

Arán na matallung na paddák.





Maganâ gapay si ulapá,  
Nga nesinnisinnek ánâ na.



Kalabása.

Áppè layyalayyák.

Ari gemmá mallakák.



Dupâ.

Duá kilotam mu.

Tádday luggutam mu.



Barawási.

Nu katabam mu,

Mappoli nga awán ta pilâ na.



Danum.



Ajjan tangapakking nga niuk.

Awayyâ ipagalliuk.



Bulán.

Butuk nga makkansion.



Bibik.

Karakáray.

Awán ta sinay.



Balangak.

Gappulak ku baggim.

Sussutak ku dágam.

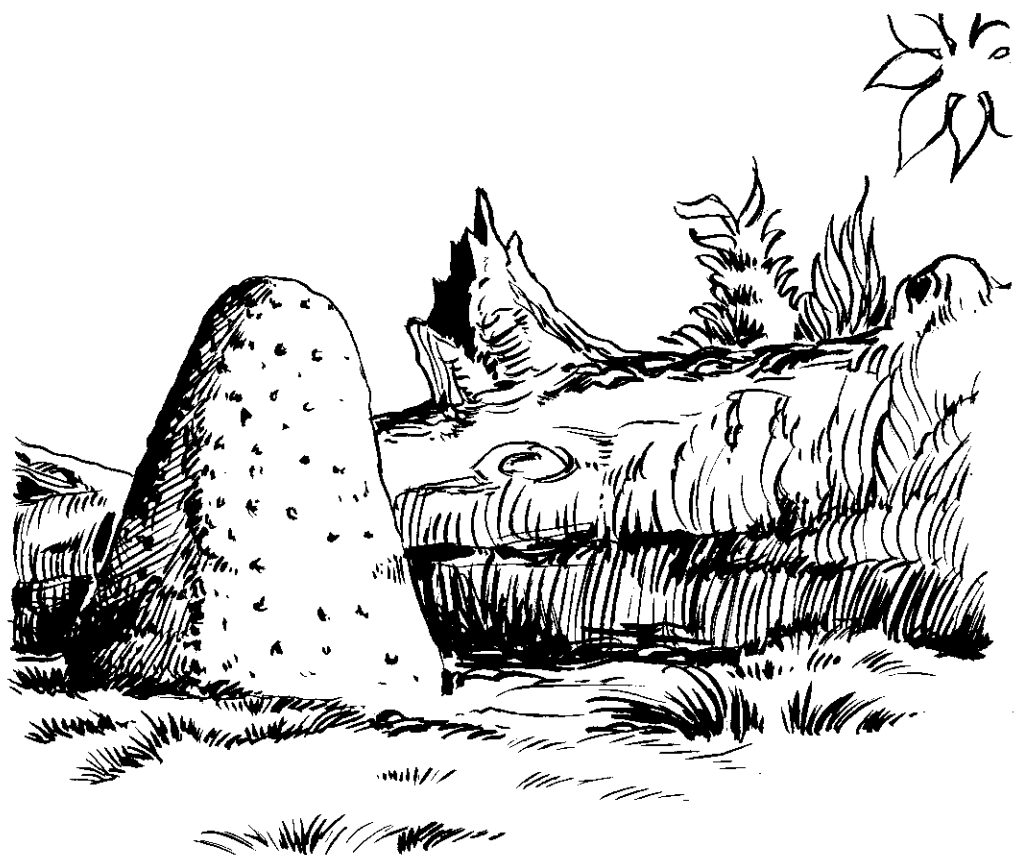


Unâ.



Nattággilággil.

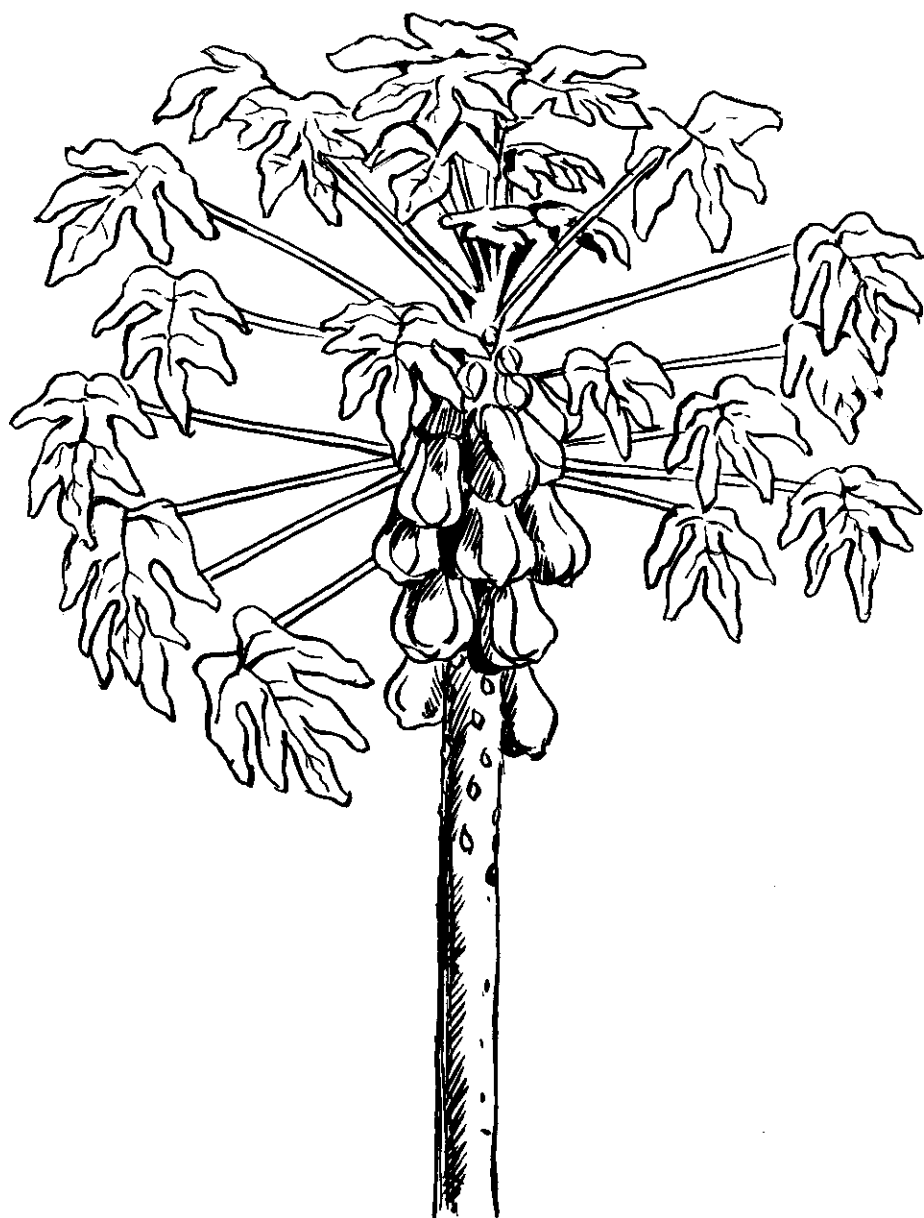
Nagabbután na ngámin.



Bale na ány.

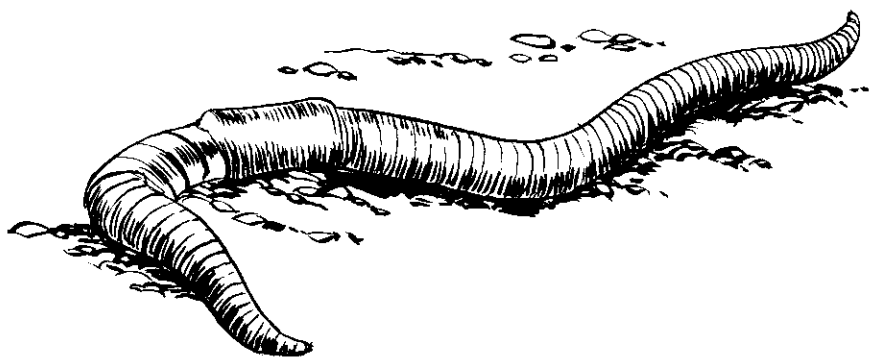
Sináppáyung yù don na.

Sinággátà yù bungá na.



Kapáya.

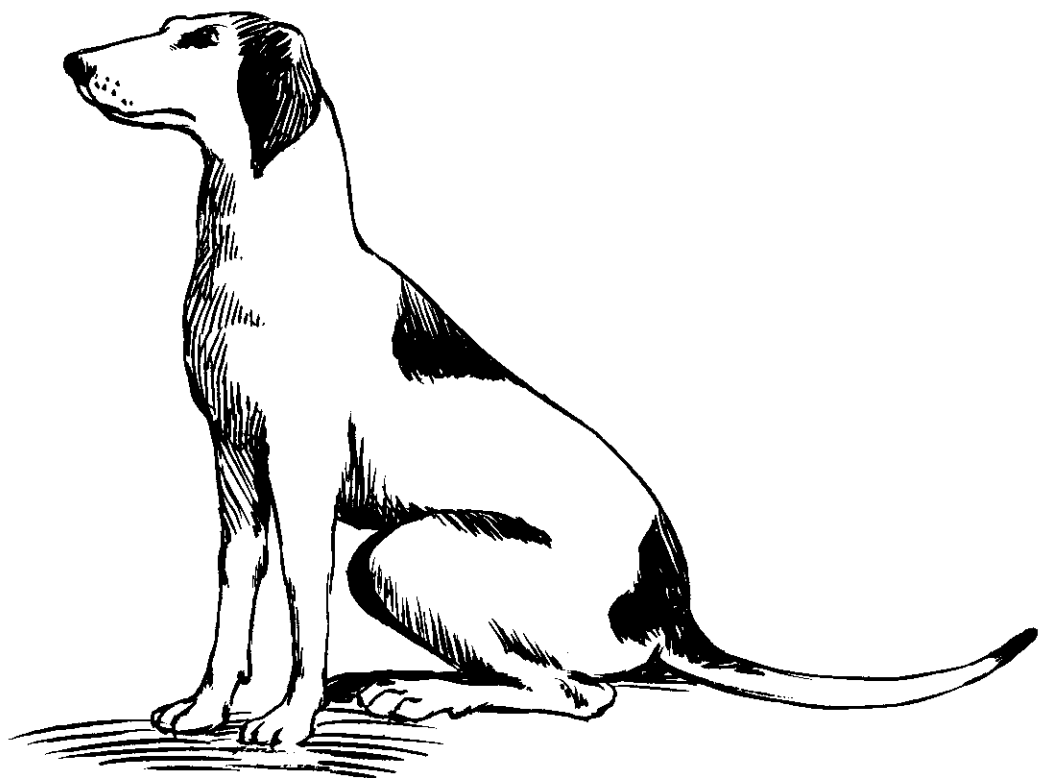
Anni pinarò na Dios,  
Nga kanan na yù bale na?



Alukkinak.

Nu manáddak, alinnâ.

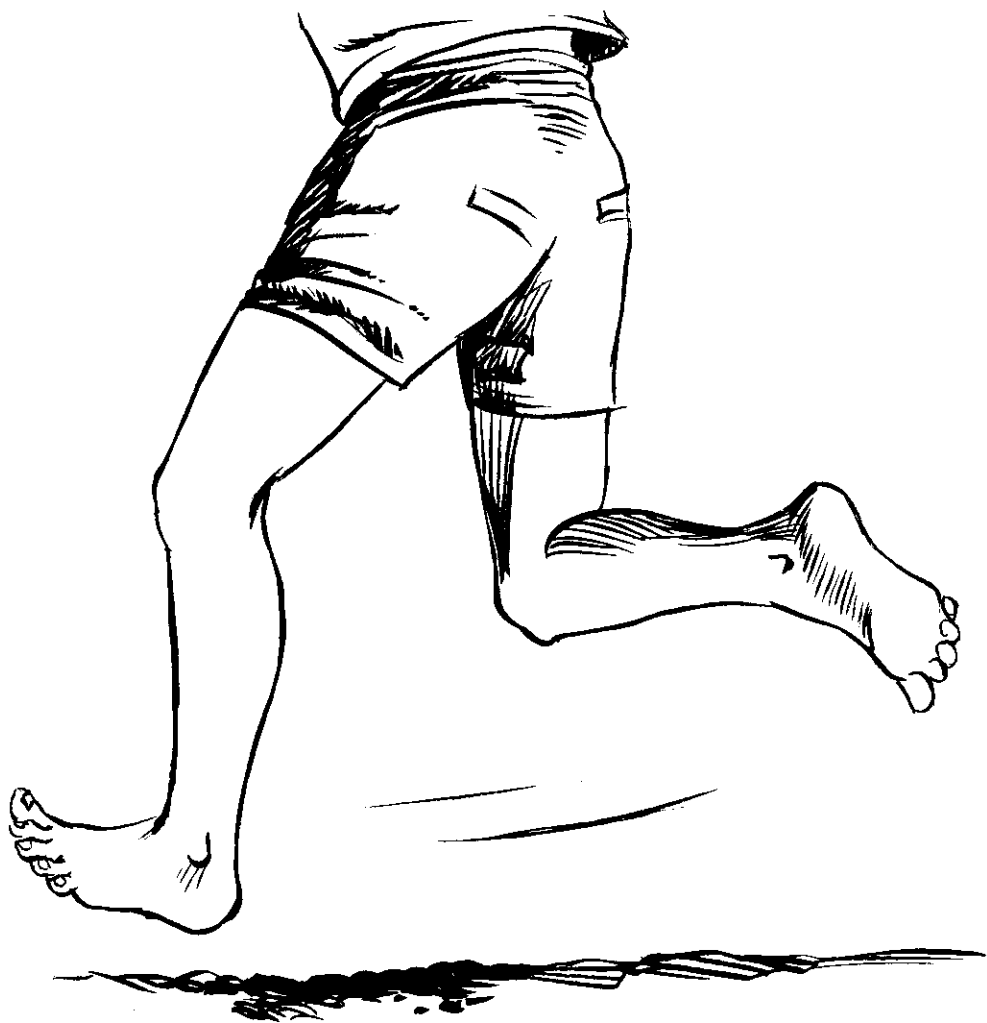
Nu magitubang, atannáng.



Ítu.

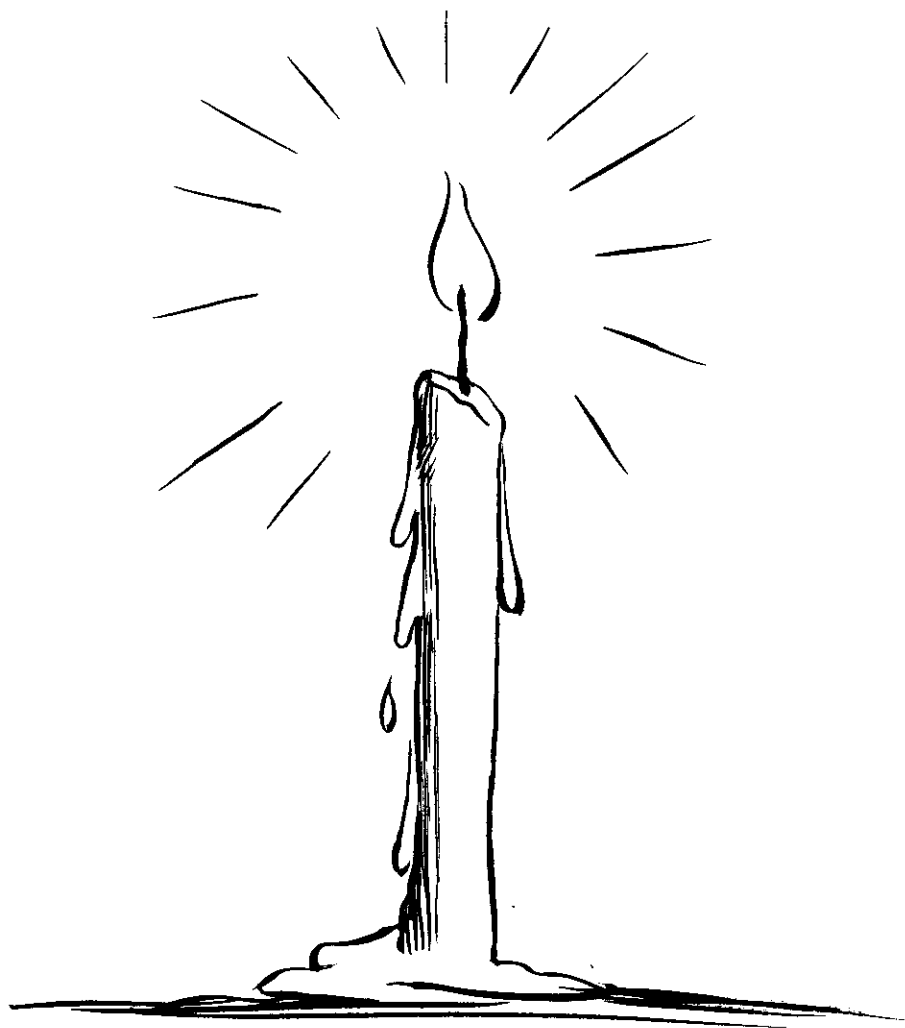


Ajjan yù duá nga kabáyu,  
Nga mappariká.



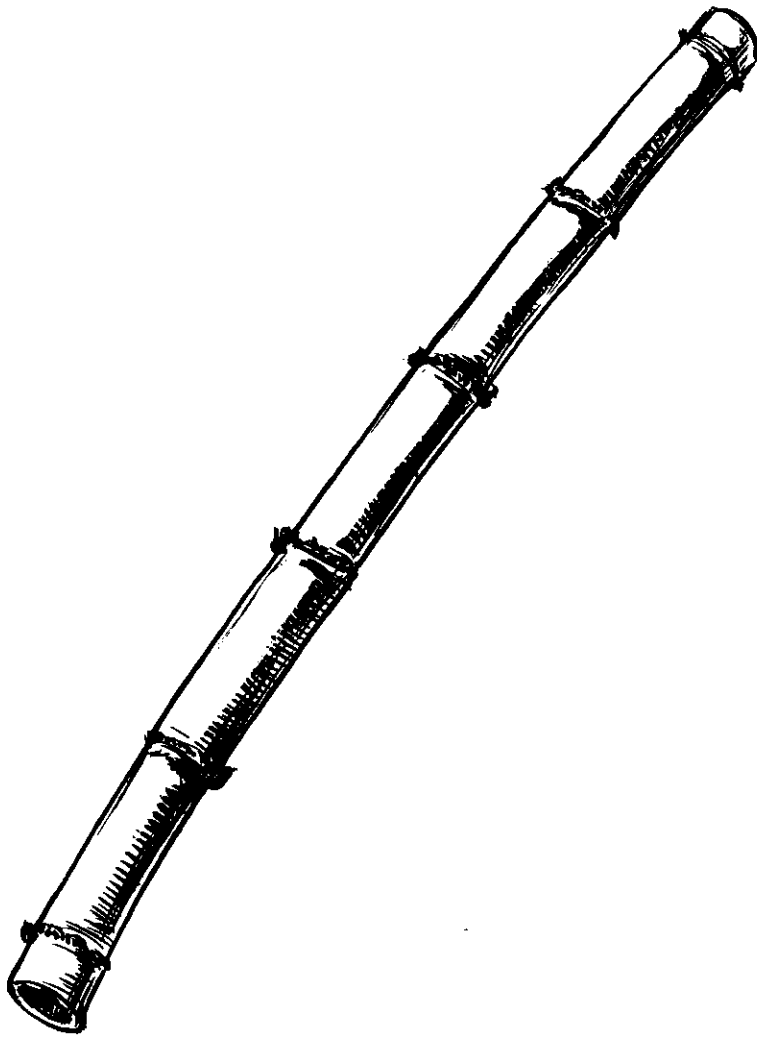
Takki.

Ajjan yù toláy nga kumán,  
Ngam kanan na yù baggi na.



Kandelá.

Ajjan yù balay nga aru yù kuárto na,  
Nga awán gemmá ta puertá na.

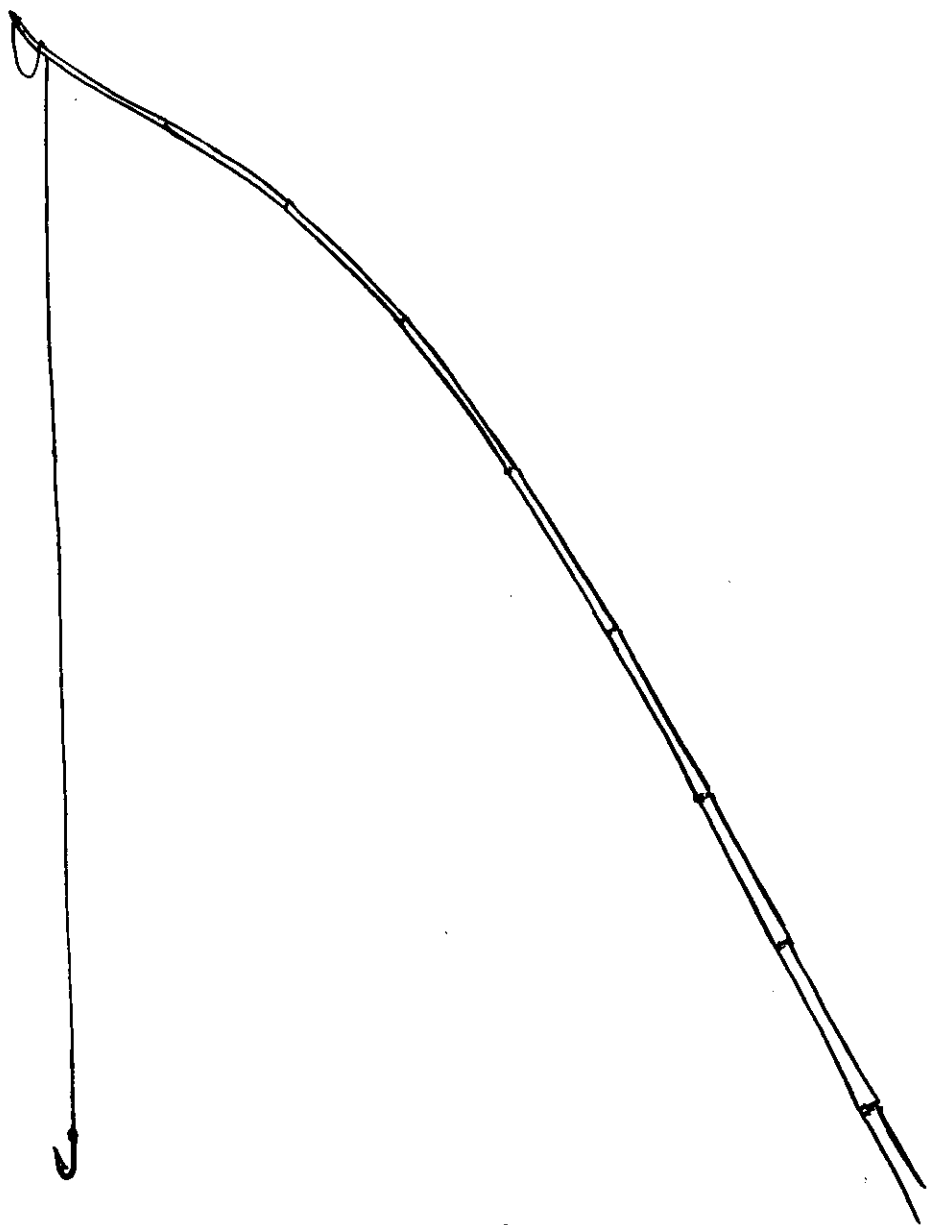


Kawáyan.

Tangngalám mu yù ipù ku,

Ta luggakà.

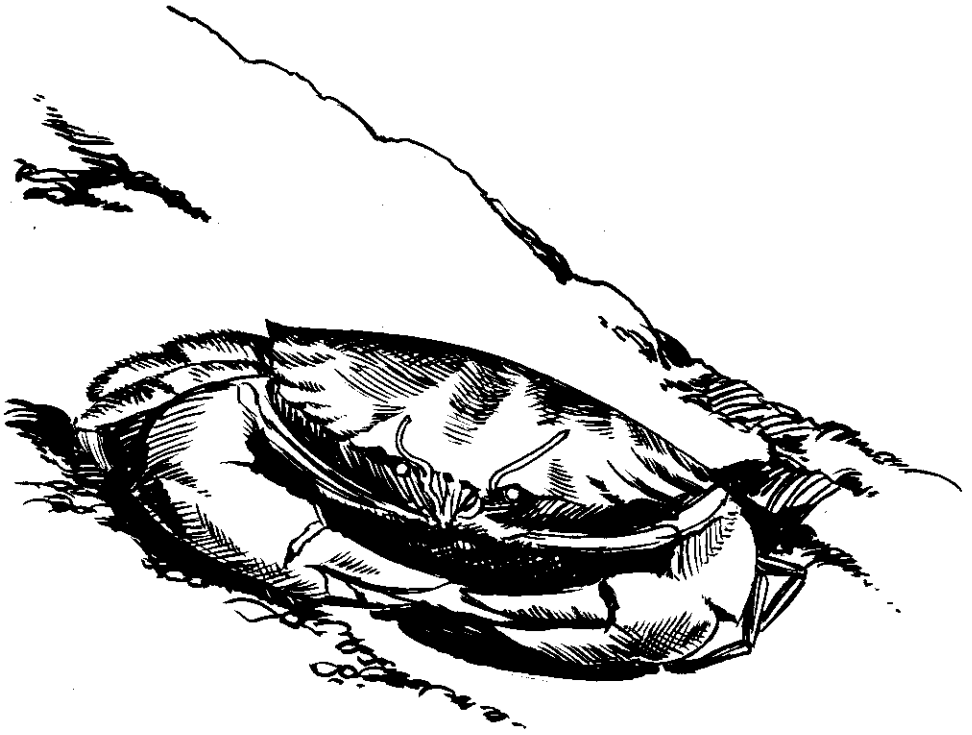
Á mangákà ta ikát ta.



Bannuî.



Ajjan ikán nga kun na karakal na dakulâ,  
Nga makkarakarerá.



Akayâ.

Mappadday ka ta jijjing.

Igapum ta utun áddè ta gukák.

Pamplona, Cagayan Prov.  
Abril 4, 1970

Tiya,  
Ajjak kami saw nga  
kanakam mu,

Yù túrâ.

Egga tallu takki na,  
Ngam táttadday lâ ulu na.



Tagáng nga batu anna bánga.

Ajjan yù tolai nga manáddak.

Nu mapannâ yù taddung na,

Arán na málâ.



Ánnanássing.



Ajjan yù bábbay sù kakáddapán.

Á táddakal taddung da.



U-ung.

Nu magurán, á matay.

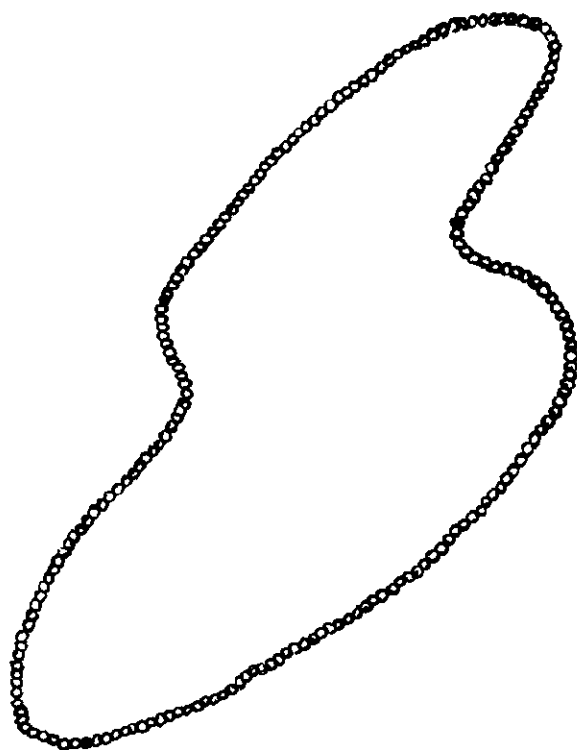
Nu mabbilák, á matolay.



Api.

Ajjan aru nga nuáng.

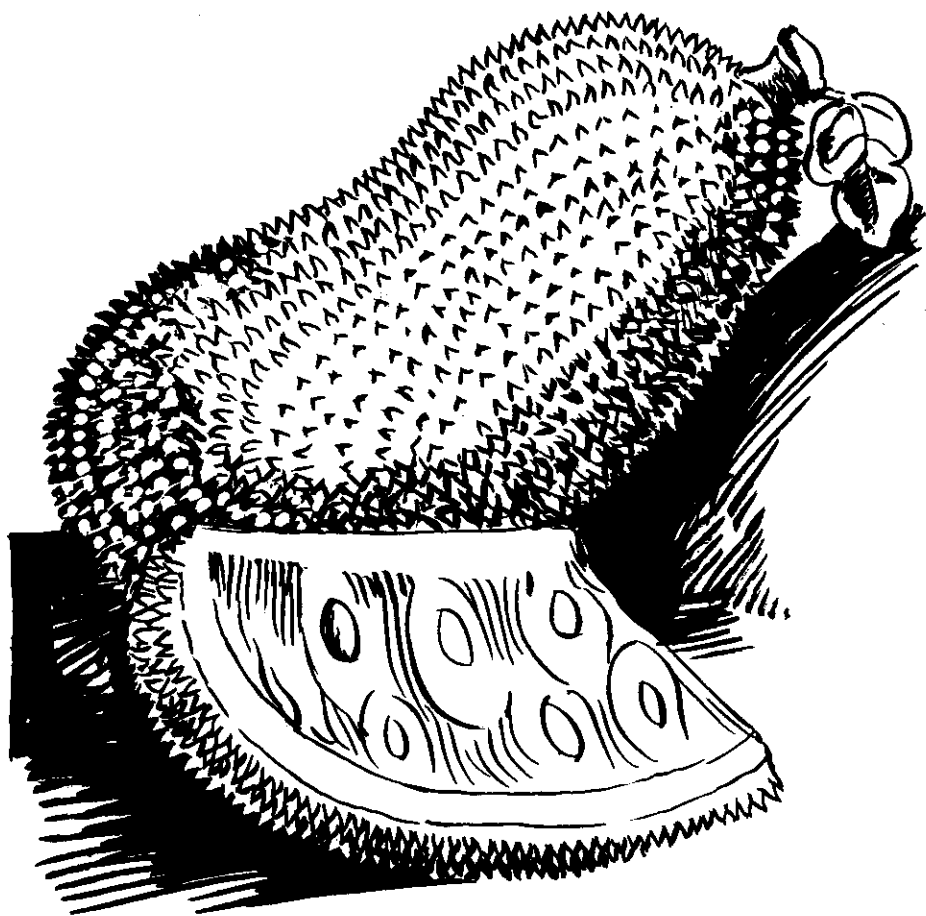
Tádday lâ natubbatád da.



Dusáriu.

Karagátán utun na.

Kabatuán unak na.

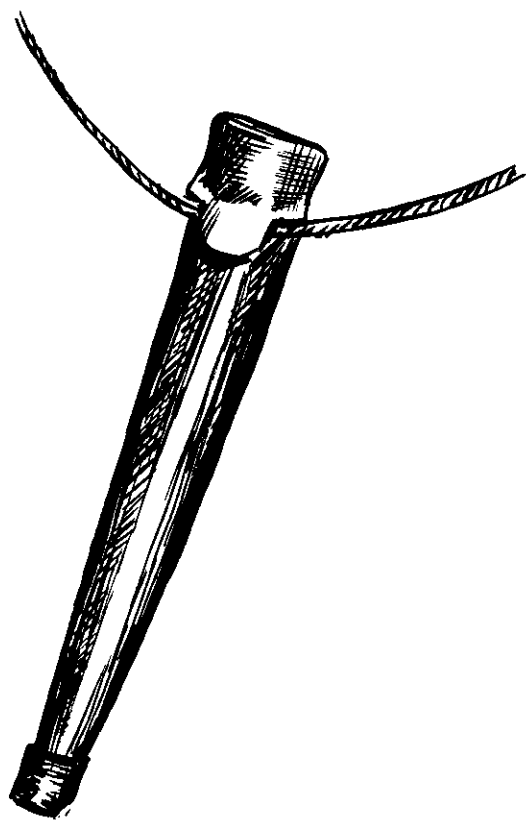


Nángka.



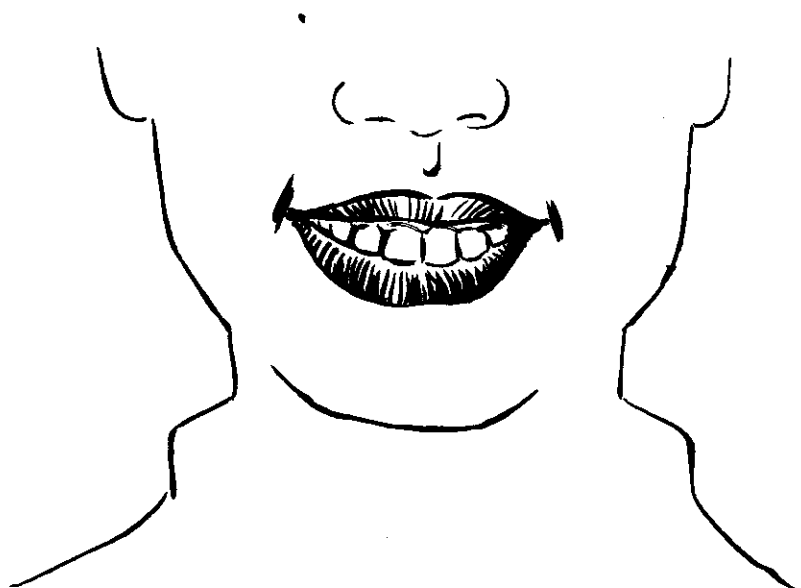
Padde na tolay.

Tádday talingá na.



Alák.

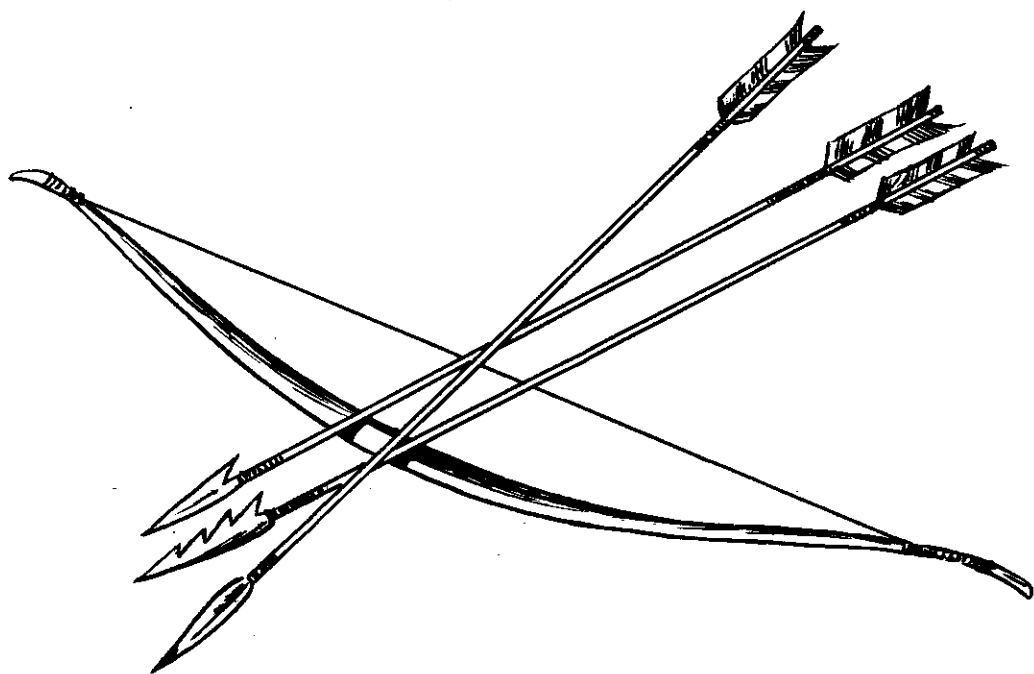
Ajjan tangakurapì nga tuláng,  
Nga pinarò ni Apu.



Ngipan.

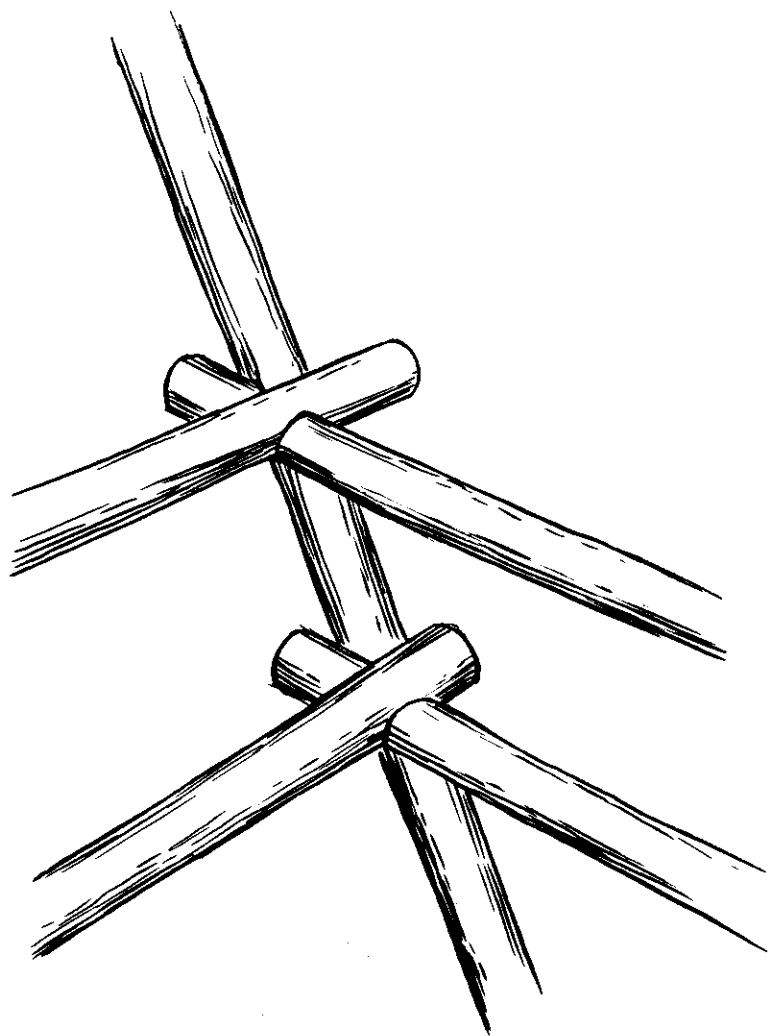
Dobam mu.

Ari lubbè nu arám mu apan.



Pána.

Tádday lâ pungán na mawwawági.



Taráwak.



Ajjan yù abbû.

Egga kuna yù badáng.

Mapiá nu ari nataram.

Napannu ta tulutuláng,

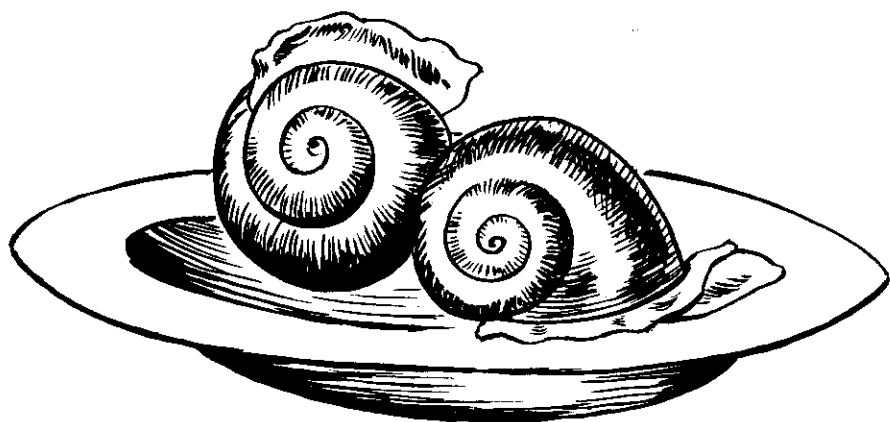
Nga ari gemmá tanam.



Simù.

Asinni nga pinarò ni Apu,

Nga magismágel yù ulu na?



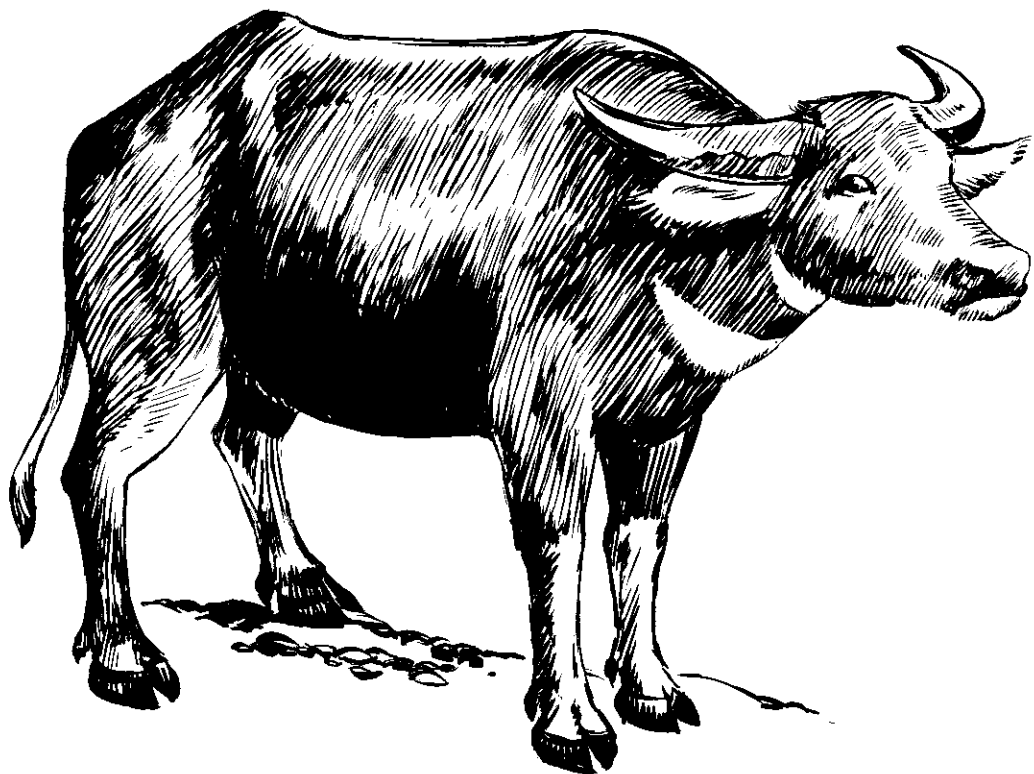
Bisikul.

Appâ áttallay.

Duá áppalù.

Tádday ábbaddû

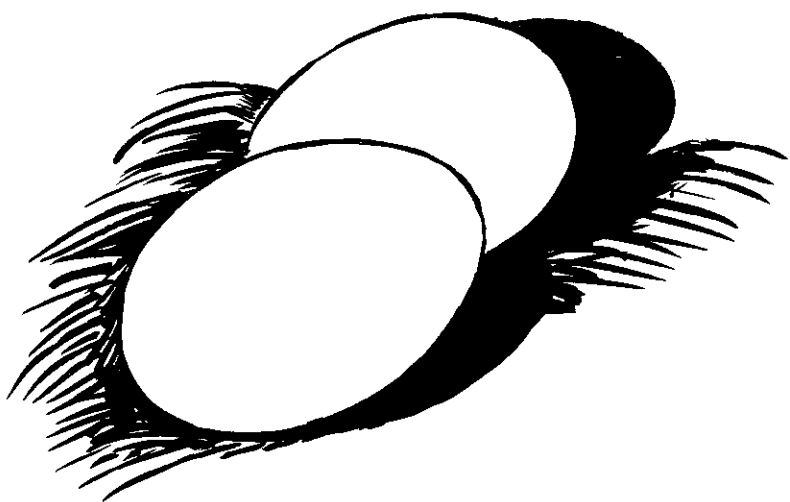
Duá áppayápay.



Nuáng.

Awán ta ari makabukâ kuna.

Awán gapay ta makaserá kuna.

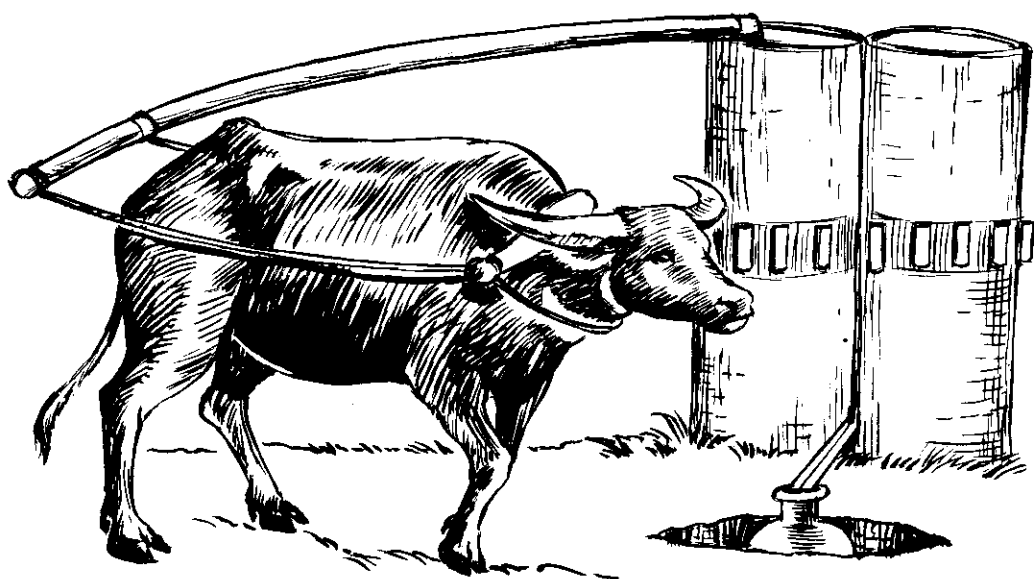


Illuk.



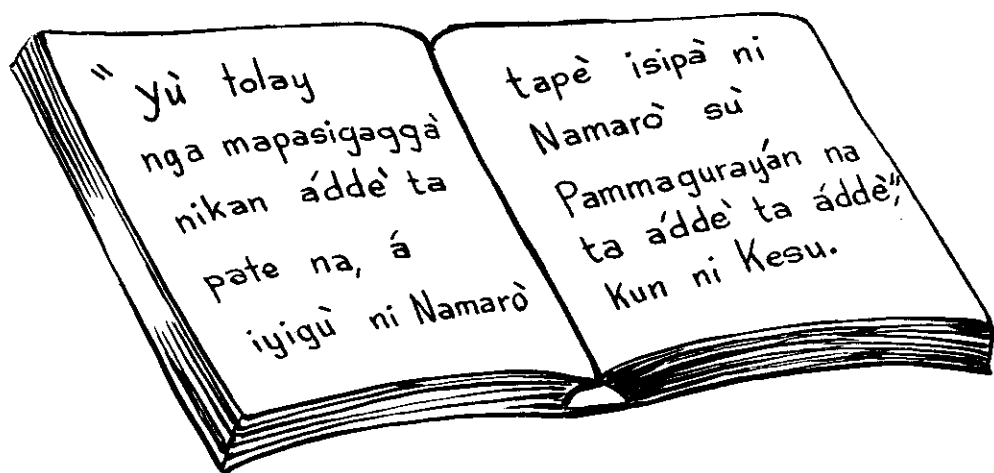
Ajjan pidde na tolai.

Nibarakà na ngipan na.



Áddapilán ta unâ.

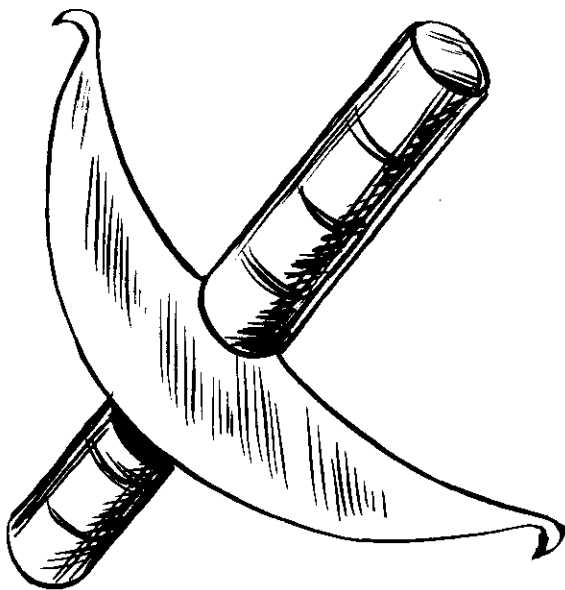
Egga yù baddì nga balay,  
Nga mangituddu ta tatolay.



Libru.

Nu arám mu paddalan,

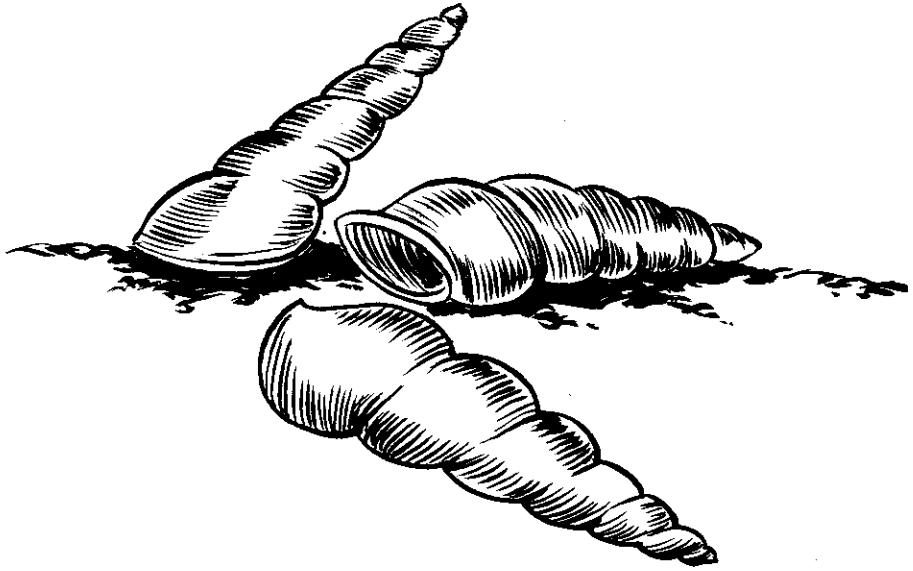
Ari gemmá kumán.



Dakam.

Tappingám mu yù ubà na,

Tapè málâ yù mayán na.



Agurung.



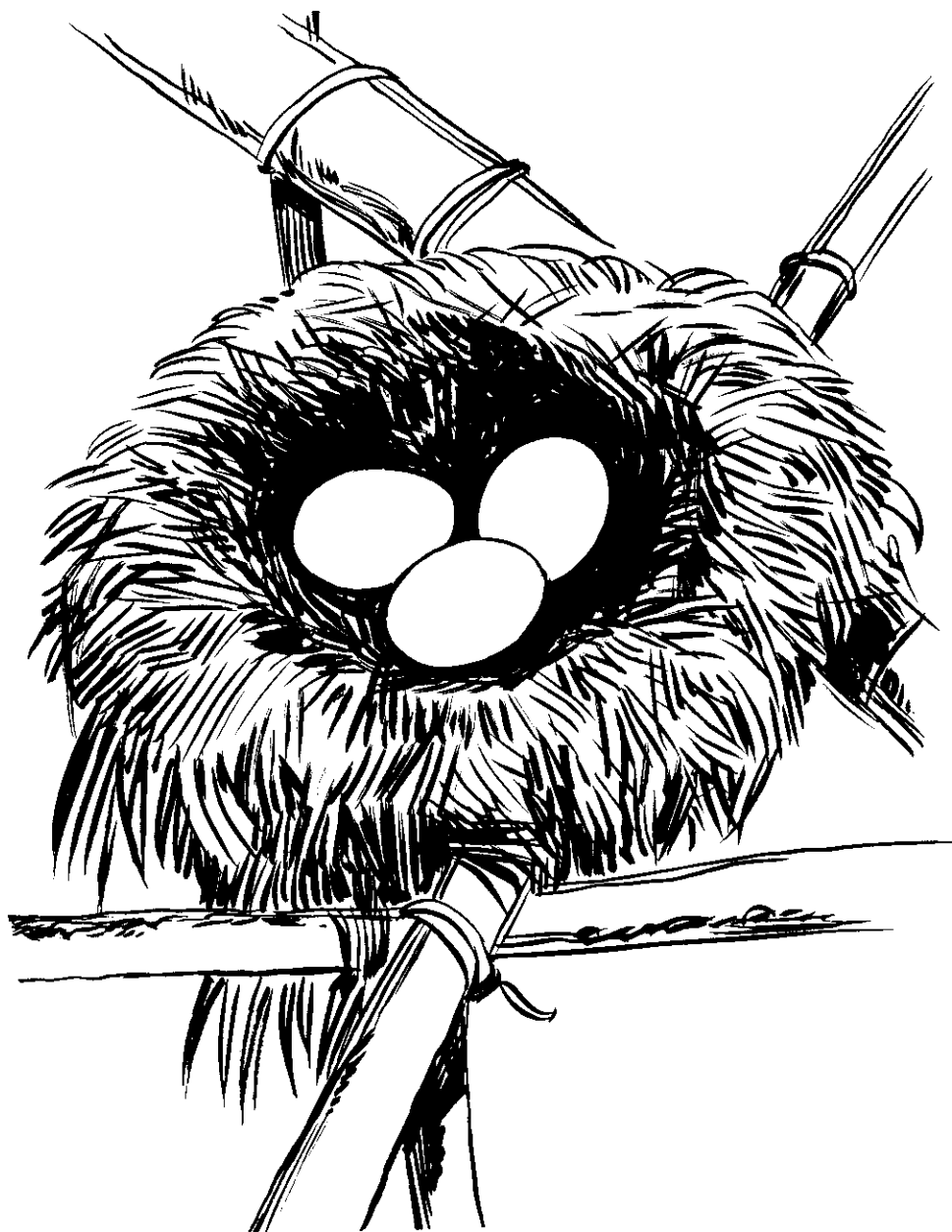
Káttuam mà.

Á káttuat taka.



Sapátù.

Ajjan yù abukkal nga batu,  
Ngam manganánnuán mattakki.



Illuk.

Sù kabajjĩ na, nabbarawási.

Paddakal na, nagilongán.



Kawáyan.

Ajjan dakal nga sirá.

Nagubu-ubobuk kinán na.



Balay.



Ágginumam mu nga napannu.

Paddayam mu gapay ta denu.

Em mu apan tangabullung.

Nebesin ta utun.



Magitubang yù abbing.

Á makkáray si innò na.



Kalabása.

Nakkuroná.

Ari gemmá rená.

Nassisisî.

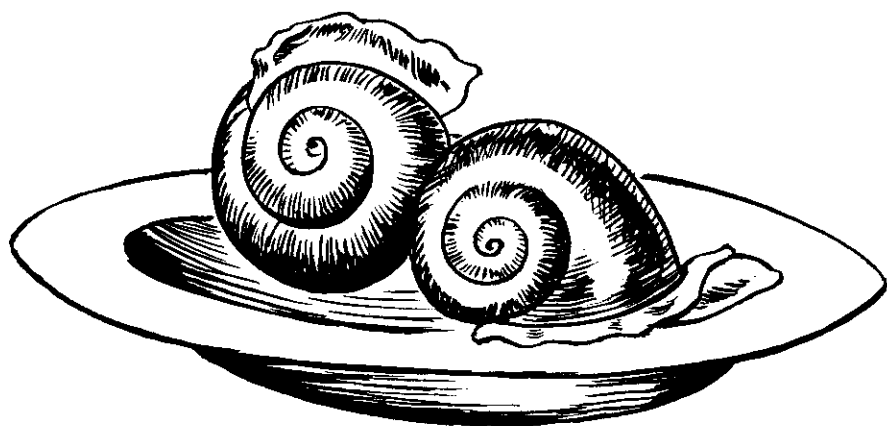
Ari gemmá sirá.



Pinniá.

Mumuddúkám.

Á ngingngijjítám.



Bisikul.



Pine boteliá si ayâ.

Kepallatám mu mangayâ.

Baggim marigirigâ.



Binaráyáng.

## Atta Riddles in Idiomatic English

Page

- 1 I plunge in my sceptre,  
And all my subjects come near.  
Answer: Dishing up rice.
- 3 A patch at night.  
A gap in the daytime.  
Answer: Window.
- 5 It's over there! (he says)  
Though of course he can't see!  
Answer: The index finger.
- 7 It isn't seen where the grass is cut.  
Where the grass is tall, there you see it.  
Answer: The wind.
- 9 The offspring is vicious.  
The mother is gentle.  
Answer: Cogon grass.
- 11 The mother is noisy.  
Her child punishes.  
Answer: A gun.
- 13 The tiny hot pepper is here  
To put us all to death.  
Answer: Nighttime.
- 15 There is something God made  
Whose lips consist only of bone.  
Answer: A chicken.
- 17 A cliff at night.  
A log in the daytime.  
Answer: Sleeping mat.
- 19 Stir the gravy,  
And firewood is shoved into the fire.  
Answer: A boat.

Page

- 21 When new, it's soft.  
When old, it's solid.  
Answer: Mud.
- 23 Half is a cliff.  
Half is a log.  
Answer: A bolo.
- 25 When it's small it says its own name.  
When it's grown it doesn't know how.  
Answer: A baby chicken.
- 27 There is something God made.  
It's afraid of its name.  
Answer: Cat.
- 29 When it's small it's a butterfly.  
When mature, it's a carpenter's nail.  
Answer: Green bean.
- 31 It doesn't eat  
If you don't hit it.  
Answer: A wood chisel.
- 33 You go ahead,  
And I'll follow.  
Answer: A plow.
- 35 Who are the brothers  
Who spank each other?  
Answer: Eyelashes.
- 37 I'm pretending to hide,  
But you can see my head.  
Answer: Carpenter's nail.
- 39 A herd of turtles.  
Answer: Fingernails.

Page

- 41 Who are the brothers  
Who turn their backs on each other?  
Answer: Ears.
- 43 Wrapped round and round.  
Wrapped in green cloth.  
It will never be guessed.  
Answer: An unborn baby.
- 45 It has branches, it has leaves, it has flowers.  
However, it has no fruit.  
Answer: Bamboo.
- 47 You can't sweep  
Under the throne of the king.  
Answer: Thorny bamboo.
- 49 A tree hung with  
The fierce ones.  
Answer: Peppers.
- 51 Its leaves are serrated.  
Its fruit is humpy.  
Answer: Pineapple.
- 53 There is a spotted horse,  
That can't be ridden.  
Answer: Waves.
- 55 There is a little cloud.  
It consoles the mind.  
Answer: Scratching.
- 57 Because I'm a Negrito,  
I live inside a tree,  
Then when I come out,  
My footprints are what talks.  
Answer: Pencil.

Page

- 59    When the water recedes,  
      Then the white bird dies.  
      Answer: Kerosene wick lamp.
- 61    I have a thin horse.  
      When I ride him, then he is fat.  
      Answer: Trousers.
- 63    There is a certain old woman.  
      Hard at work, she scurries in and out.  
      Answer: A needle.
- 65    Move over there,  
      Because I'm going to fall.  
      Answer: Cigar.
- 67    I have a small well up above.  
      No air can get into it.  
      Answer: Coconut.
- 69    The foolish one gives birth,  
      And scatters her litter.  
      Answer: Squash.
- 71    Its sails are make-believe,  
      For of course it doesn't go anywhere.  
      Answer: Banana plant.
- 73    Two you scoop out.  
      One you go under.  
      Answer: Shirt or dress.
- 75    When you cut it,  
      It is mended without a scar.  
      Answer: Water.
- 77    When there's a piece of a coconut,  
      I can have visitors.  
      Answer: The moon.

Page

- 79 A bow that sings.  
Answer: The lips.
- 81 It crawls,  
But has no guts.  
Answer: Kangkong.
- 83 I cut your body,  
I suck your blood.  
Answer: Sugar cane.
- 85 It's perforated.  
It's full of holes.  
Answer: Termite nest.
- 87 Its leaves are like umbrellas.  
Its fruit is like a woman's breast.  
Answer: Papaya.
- 89 What did God create  
That eats its own house?  
Answer: Earthworm.
- 91 When it stands, it's short.  
When it sits, it's tall.  
Answer: Dog.
- 93 There are two horses  
That are racing.  
Answer: Feet
- 95 There's a person who eats.  
However, he eats his own body.  
Answer: A candle.
- 97 There is a house with many rooms,  
Which, however, has no door.  
Answer: Bamboo.

Page

- 99 Hold onto my tail,  
Because I'm going under water.  
And I'll get our meat.  
Answer: Fishing line.
- 101 There is some meat as big as your palm  
Which runs.  
Answer: Crab.
- 103 Build a wall.  
Begin at the top and go to the bottom.  
Answer: A letter.
- 105 It has three legs,  
But only one head.  
Answer: Three rocks supporting a cooking pot  
on the fire.
- 107 There is a person who stands,  
But when his hat falls,  
He can't get it.  
Answer: Scarecrow.
- 109 There are women in the field,  
And their hats are real big.  
Answer: Mushrooms.
- 111 When it rains, then it dies.  
When it's sunny, then it lives.  
Answer: Fire.
- 113 There are many carabao  
All on one tether.  
Answer: Necklace.
- 115 The outside is a beach.  
The inside is a gravel bed.  
Answer: Jackfruit.



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- 117 People make it.  
It has one ear.  
Answer: Sheath for bolo.
- 119 There is a whole purse-full of bones,  
Created by God.  
Answer: Teeth.
- 121 You send it.  
It doesn't come back if you don't go after it.  
Answer: Arrow.
- 123 Only one pillow for two brothers.  
Answer: Rafters.
- 125 There is a cave.  
It has a bolo in it.  
It's good if it isn't sharp.  
It's full of bones.  
However, it isn't a grave.  
Answer: Mouth.
- 127 What did God make,  
That wears thong sandals on its head?  
Answer: Snail.
- 129 It has four posts,  
Two sticks,  
One whip,  
And two fans.  
Answer: Carabao.
- 131 There is no one who cannot open it,  
But also no one who can close it.  
Answer: Egg.
- 133 There is something people make,  
That has teeth around its waist.  
Answer: A sugar cane press.

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- 135 I have a little house  
That teaches people.  
Answer: Book.
- 137 If you don't squeeze it,  
It won't eat.  
Answer: Rice-harvesting tool.
- 139 You cut off its bottom  
To get its contents out.  
Answer: Snail.
- 141 You carry me,  
And I'll carry you.  
Answer: Shoes.
- 143 There is a round stone,  
Which after a while will have feet.  
Answer: Egg.
- 145 When it's small, it's clothed.  
When it's grown, it's naked.  
Answer: Bamboo.
- 147 There is a big fish.  
What it has eaten is talking.  
Answer: House.
- 149 A drinking cup that is full.  
You also make oil of it.  
Go and get one.  
It's hanging up above.  
Answer: Coconut.
- 151 The child sits,  
And its mother crawls.  
Answer: Squash.

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- 153 It wears a crown,  
But it isn't a queen.  
It has scales,  
But isn't a fish.  
Answer: Pineapple.
- 155 You suck it,  
And you bite it.  
Answer: Snail.
- 157 Joy put in a bottle.  
You are emotionally overwhelmed with it  
But your body is in trouble.  
Answer: Alcoholic beverage.