

# UNHEARD OF!

A 10-part series introducing  
threatened literatures  
from around the world

Part I: INDONESIA

\$10 admission

<http://unheardof.brownpapertickets.com/>

Batavia

1046. Dansmeid (Oebroek)

Sunday, Sept. 29, 1 - 3 pm

Bowery Poetry

308 Bowery, New York, NY

presented by: Endangered Language Alliance

in conjunction with: Bowery Arts + Science

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# Indonesia

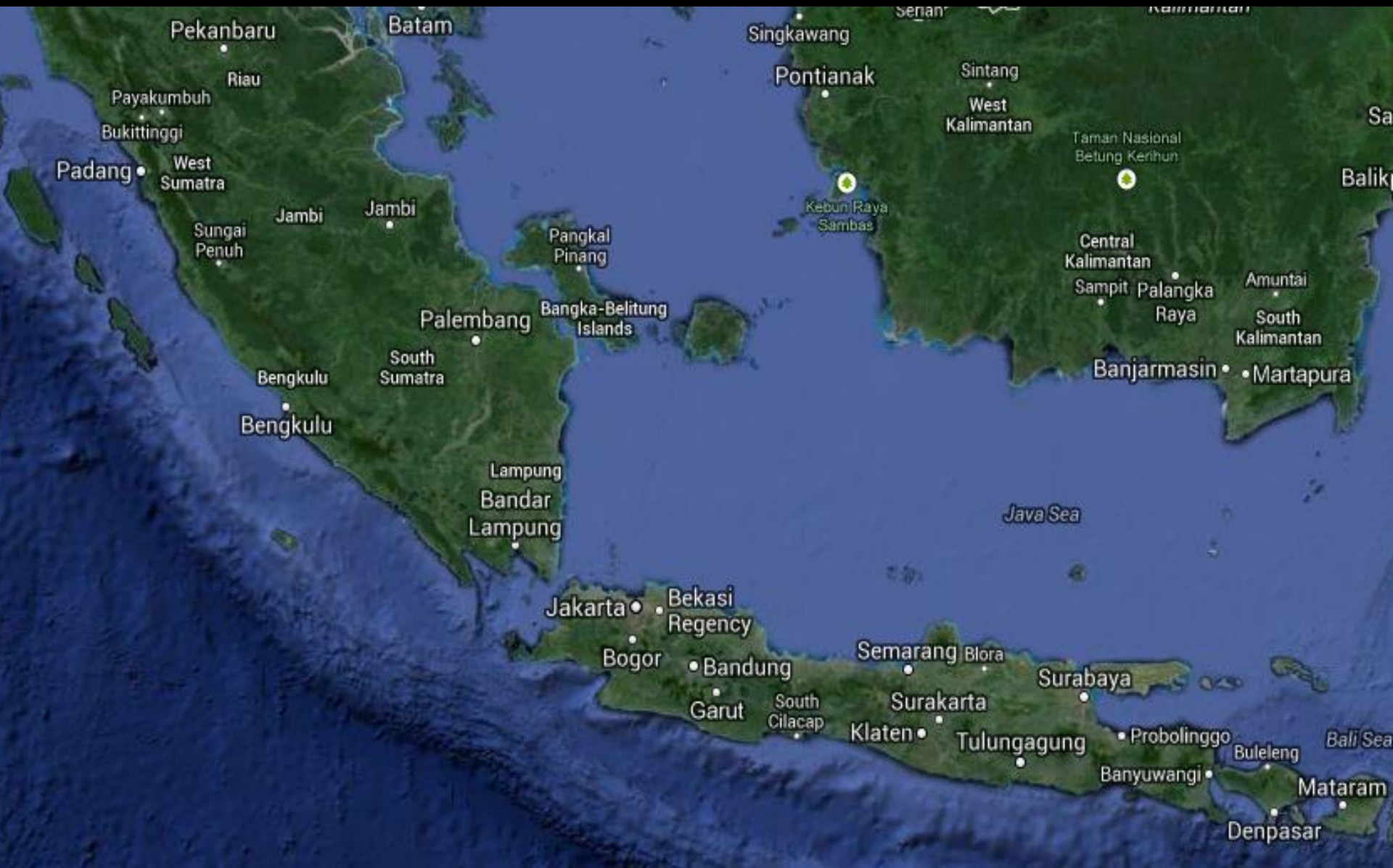
- A country of roughly 719 languages, many of which are only spoken in very small areas.
- Austronesian throughout and non-Austronesian languages in the east.
- Several alphabets developed from Indian models but few languages have a written tradition

# Indonesia

- The success of the national language, Bahasa Indonesia, came at the expense of many local languages.
- In cities, young people typically only speak varieties of Malay. As the country becomes more urbanized, more and more languages are in danger of not being transmitted.

# Indonesia

- With every language, there exists a wealth of literary traditions, most of which have never been committed to writing.
- Today we present some of the lesser known (as well as one well known) verbal art forms found among the regional languages.



# Pantun

*Tanam selasih di tengah padang,  
Sudah bertangkai diurung semut,  
Kita kasih orang tak sayang,  
Halai-balai tempurung hanyut.*

I planted sweet-basil in mid-field  
Grown, it swarmed with ants,  
I loved but am not loved,  
I am all confused and helpless.

# Betawi

Corin D Asmara

"Jambu klutuk dari pasar minggu  
Warnenye mere udeh pasti mateng  
Mate ane ngantuk lame menunggu  
Ane kire saudare ngga jadi dateng.

*A guava from Pasar Minggu*  
its color is already red, surely ripe  
I'm dying of sleepiness waiting so long  
I figure you're not coming after all



Beli paye pilih yang mateng  
Kalo ngga ade buah kiwi  
Kalo kite ngga jadi dateng  
Ntar ngga ade orang betawi

When buying papaya, choose a ripe one  
If there aren't any, a kiwi fruit instead  
If we don't show up  
There won't be a single Betawi

Ayam bangkok dibawa Atun  
Tiap pagi dimandiin  
Kalo iseng nyok kite bepantun  
Ampe pagi Ane layanin

A bangkok rooster, brought by Atun  
Every morning he showers him  
If you have free time, let's recite pantun  
I can serve 'em up until mornin'

Kopi diseduh air mendidih  
Tampel gula diaduk rata  
Biar ati nggak tambah sedih  
Kita berpantun ala Jakarta

Coffee is mixed with boiling water  
without sugar, mix it well  
To relieve your depression  
we'll recite pantun ala Jakarta

Masih orok kudu dibedong  
Ude gede ngelebok sebakul  
kalo bole ikutan mantun dong  
Bikin bete cume modal dengkul

A baby must be wrapped in a blanket  
Once big, he'll eat a basketfull  
If you can, join the pantun!  
It comforts you with whatever's available

Bunge anggrek bunge seroje  
Ikan salmon ikan tune  
Nyang nyaut itu-itu aje  
Emangnye pade kemane

Orchid flower, lotus flower  
Salmon fish, tuna fish  
It's just these who answer  
Truly, where has everyone gone?

Bangun kesiangan ngga pake kasur  
duren yg dikasih ude bonyok  
Tinggal di bangunan ane digusur  
Terpakse deh ngungsi ke new york

Woke up late, without a mattress  
the durian they gave me is already rotten  
living in a building, I was evicted  
forced to flee and take refuge in New York

Anak gajah di kolong bale  
Lagi asyik makan pete  
Mohon maaf atas segale  
Sale sikap dan sale sangke

A child elephant under a wooden bed  
excitedly eating stink beans  
I ask pardon for everything  
a wrong attitude and a misunderstanding

Ade ikan namenye tenggiri  
Ikan dibawe ke Muare kaman  
Melastarikan budaya negeri  
Bukanlah hanye tugas seniman.

There's a fish whose name is *Tanggiri*  
A fish is brought to the mouth of Kaman river  
Preserving national culture  
is not just the job of artists



Udeh lame ngga ketemuan  
Nyok kite peste semaleman  
Ketawe-ketiwi penuh jamuan  
Ane permisi mau duluan.

We haven't met in a long time  
Let's party all night long  
Laughing and carrying on with a full table  
Permit me, I want to go home first

Lantaran kite orang Betawi, nih pantun Ane yang  
bontot:

Buaye mencari makan  
Melate di waktu pagi  
Budaye mesti kite pertahankan  
Kalo bukan kite siapa lagi

Because I'm the Betawi, my pantun will be last:  
A crocodile looks for food  
crawling around in the morning  
we must maintain culture  
If not us, who else?

Kite-kite ke Tanah Abang  
Kenape ngga ke rume nyonye  
Bener juge kate si Abang  
Tapi jangan lupe ame tariannye

Let's all go to Tanah Abang  
Why not go to the lady's house  
Sounds good, big brother said  
But don't forget about the rest of Betawi culture  
for instance,  
Dance!

Buah manggis enak rasenye  
pepaye mangge jato  
item manis sapa orangnye  
aye nyang paling botoh

Mangosteen fruit, its taste is delicious  
a papaya, a manggo, drop to the ground.  
That dark skinned woman, who is she?  
I am the sexiest one!

Ikan pede lalap ketimun  
ikan tembang sayur santen  
daripade aye ngelamun  
mendingan nandak ganjen

Salted smoked fish, cucumber salad,  
*tembang* fish, vegetables with coconut milk.  
Instead of just staring into space,  
I'm better off dancing *ganjen*.



Indonesia

Malaysia

Manado

Kota Kinabalu

Sandakan

Sabah

Lahad Datu

Binsuluk Forest Reserve

Bandar Seri Begawan

Miri Brunei

Semporna

Tawau

Tarakan

Bintulu

Celebes Sea

East Kalimantan

Kalimantan

Bontang

Samarinda

Balikpapan

Makassar Strait

Palu

Central Sulawesi

Sulawesi

West Sulawesi

Palopo

Polewali

Pare-Pare

Singkang

Kendari

Makassar

Tanete

Molucca Sea

North Maluku

Halmahera

Ternate

Halmahera Sea

Seram Island  
Pulau Seram

Ceram Sea

Ambon

Maluku

Zamboanga

Isabela

Jolo

Davao

City of Koronadal

General Santos

Digos

Mati

Taman Nasional  
Betung Kerihun

Central Kalimantan

Sampit Palangka Raya

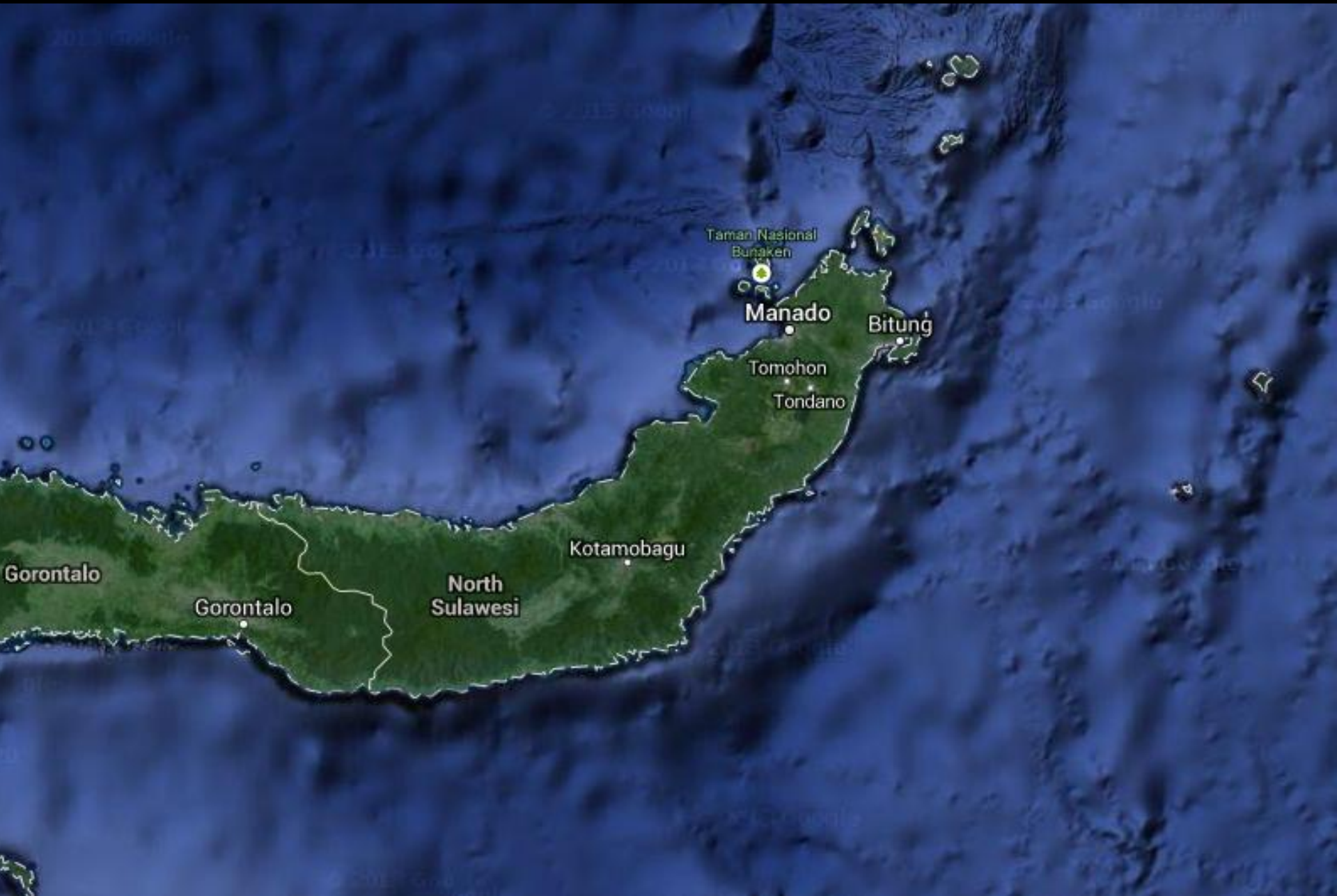
Amuntai

South Kalimantan

Banjarmasin

Martapura







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GABRIELE

# Tontemboan

Rosa & Alfrits Monintja

“The story of Lumimuut and Toar as  
told by W. Mondow”

*Tontemboansche Teksten* (1907)

Johanes Albert Traugott Schwarz

According to the story of the story tellers, there was a hard stone in the middle of the sea. That hard rock was as big as a big house. That hard rock was washed over by waves and became a bird named a crow.

That hard rock sweat and sweat and became a human. The name of that human was *Lumimuut* (sweating) because she was born from the sweat of the stone.

*Lumimuut* now went up to stand on top of that hard rock, while she was standing on that hard rock she saw the crow flying by with a dry twig. She asked him,

“Hey crow, where did you get that dry stick?”

The crow answered,

“I got it over there at *Tawere*.”

When *Lumimuut* heard that, she said, “If you don’t mind, please take me to that land.”

The crow answered, “Just follow me.”

So they both went to that piece of land. The land rose from the middle sea. Once they were both there, the crow said to *Lumimuut*,

“This is the land where I got the dry twig I had with me. Its name is *Tawere*.”

When the crow had spoken, *Lumimuut* flew away and left crow over there. After that *Lumimuut* took dirt in both hands and came back to the hard rock from which she arose.

When she arrived there she let go of the earth she had gotten with both hands. When she looked carefully at the place where she let go of the earth it was about 10 cubits.

The next morning the size of that land had grown and the morning after, it had grown even further and it kept growing. After nine full days, the land stopped growing because it got too close to the sky in the north, the west, the east and the south.

*Lumimuut* now saw that the whole surface of the earth was barren. So she returned to the land where she got dirt with both hands and got more dirt. She spread the earth on the whole surface of the land and it became trees.

When *Lumimuut* saw this all, she made a mountain in the south on the origin of *Rano i Apo* named *Wulur Maatus*. *Lumimuut* now climbed the mountain and stood on top of it. When she was there she turned her face to the western wind.



She felt that her body had been blessed and she became pregnant. Therefore, the wind that comes from the west is called *awa'at* because the wind made *Lumimuut* pregnant.

After that she gave birth to a son and *Lumimuut* named that child *Toar*. *Toar* grew up very quickly. When *Toar* was already big, his mother said to him. “*Toar*, you have to go and find a wife.” *Toar* agreed and went on a trip around the world.

*Toar* came back to his mother and said,  
“I couldn’t find a wife.”

Lumimuut answered,

“*Toar*, cut off that *goloba*. Cut the bottom and the top. Measure the *goloba* to my size and go around the earth again. Go to the right and I will go the left. When you find a wife whose outer beauty is like mine go meet her with that *goloba*. When you measure her, and the *goloba* is longer, then it’s not me. It’s her who should be your wife.”

Then they both went in opposite directions. *Lumimuut* went to the left and *Toar* went to the right. *Toar* walked and walked and met a woman. He saw that the woman, from her outer beauty, was like his mother. But when he measured her with the *goloba* that he carried with him, the *goloba* was longer. This woman was in fact *Lumimuut* but the *goloba* was longer than her because it was growing during the journey although he cut it off.

So when *Toar* met the woman, *Toar* said, you are indeed the woman who my mother said I should take as a wife, because the *goloba* is longer than you. So on that day they became married. They returned to *Wulur Maatus* and there they had 3 times 9 children. *Lumimuut* and *Toar* divided among each of the children the place where they would go and live and the work they would do.

“Weweletan”  
(divination)

*Tontemboansche Teksten* (1907)  
Johanes Albert Traugott Schwarz

Come eat, O mighty Gods! Lady, who has cultivated the earth, make life even longer and let other people's goods come into our place without our effort.

Come eat, O mighty Gods! Make life longer and our bodies healthier and let the field be grown more densely with rice, so they should distinguish themselves more and more from those of neighboring and non-neighboring fields.

Come eat, O mighty Gods! Make us even healthier of body and our children, chickens and pigs, too.

Come eat, O mighty ones! Give a healthy body to those who are traveling, and give blessings on the way.

Come eat, O mighty Gods! Lady, who has cultivated the earth, let the rice take its time anyway, it's only the liver of the fattened pig at home that's waiting for it.

Come eat, O mighty Gods, *Tenteres* and *Lengkokan!*



There, eat meat, gods, *rorot* and forest gods, and let us progress in that way.

O mighty ones! Give me happiness when I'm walking in the forest or in the village, wherever I will go.

Eat meat there, *rorot*. Let us progress like that.

There's your part, *rorot*. Let our meat already obtained last long and help us catch more such game and give us fat, wild boar.

There is your part, it is equally distributed.

Eat meat there, you who are entitled to it, and make the palmwine flask drip even more so that the palmwine tapper is constantly attached to the tree.

Drink, Gods! Increase even this palm wine.

Drink mighty Gods! Make our body healthier, and  
make our lives even longer.

Let the open fields become cleaner, O mighty  
Gods, and let the machete be even sharper.

O mighty Gods! let the rice lengthen, so that by  
plucking once, the hand already is full.

O mighty Gods! let the rice be long!

O mighty Gods! Let the harvested rice last a long time. Let it be as if we're just filling the shell of a pinang nut.

O mighty Gods! Give us prosperity. Let it be as if we're just bringing it in from our reserves.

O mighty Gods, *Toar* and *Ramangasin*! Make the salt still even harder.

*Seleng*, if the wood falls off, bring it here to the village, but if it's made into a house, may he who has brought it, as of that day, not leave from his home.

Well, surprising, how favorable the gall is!  
From now on there will be longevity and wealth,  
goods will be brought to the house without the  
trouble of having to buy them.

O mighty Gods! Come here quickly to let this  
dam take root in the ground, so that until the end  
of time it will not break.



Keep bringing more goods and therewith pray  
always to the Gods, and it could be that you  
obtain a lot!

O mighty Gods! Prolong the life of our  
grandchildren!

O mighty Gods! Give me prosperity in all  
respects, so that to those to whom I ply my  
merchandise, it seems like *langsats* fruits.

O my child, my child! Give a long life to our father and child, mother and child, and extend it over that of our contemporaries and non-contemporaries, O mighty Gods!

O Mighty! Let the harmful spirits flow to the borders of an unknown country.

O Mighty ones! Let the disease flow to the land's borders and instead give us a healthy body.

O Mighty ones! Let the disease spirits and the deceptive promises flow away to the borders of the land and if somebody behind my back bothers me, I hope he chokes!

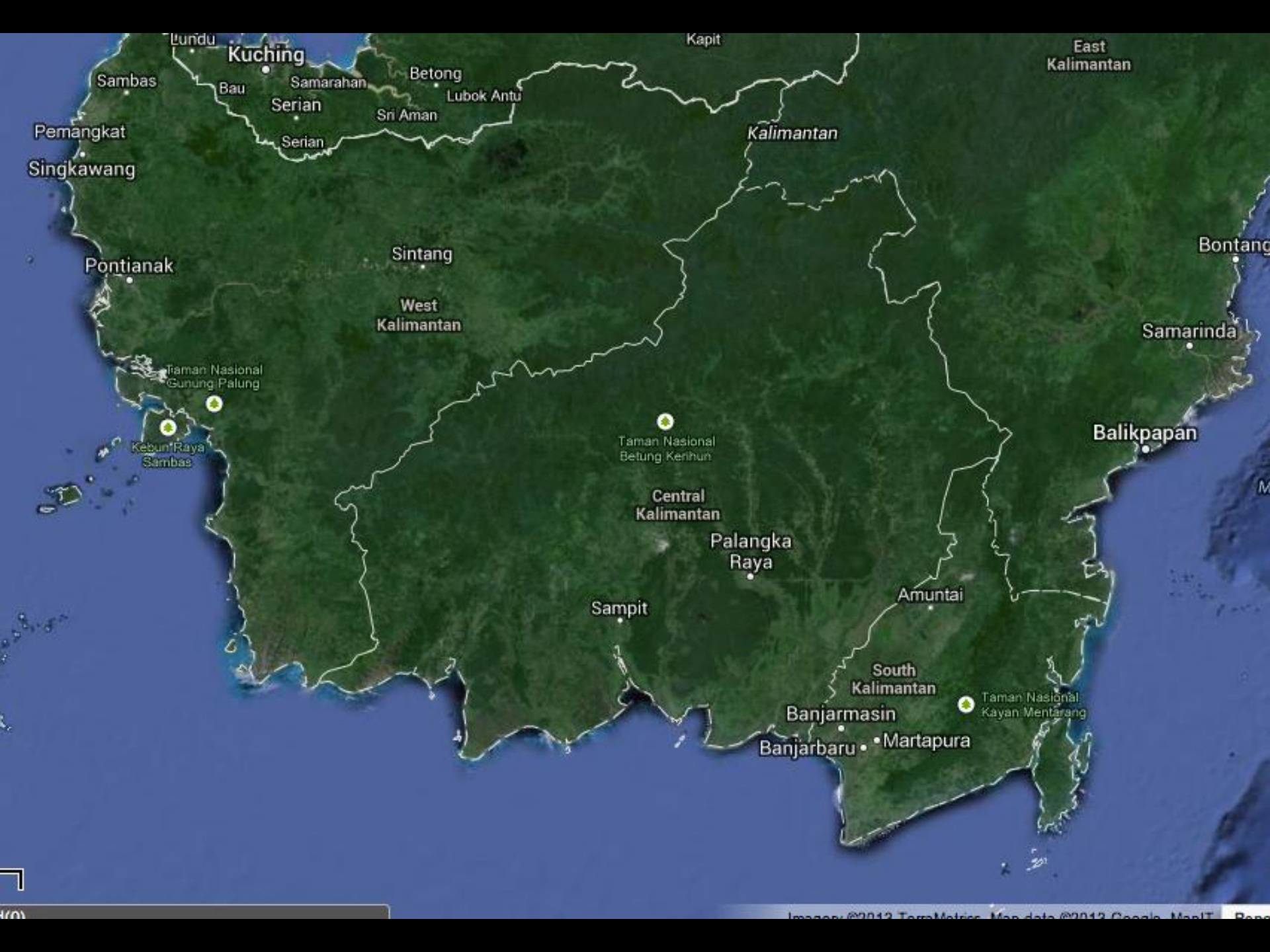
O Mighty ones! If life is still with us, then lighten the disease, if it is already the hour of death, only then take the last breath away.

O Mighty ones! Lighten the disease and here is the sacrifice if he gets better.

What shall we do with you yet? you are already at the end of your life. Do we have only little love left? But what to do? To rebel, against they who created us?

Oh my, or: oh my, poor me!

Let what is spread, be shaken out, and let it be shaken out well!



# Palanduk & Haramaung

**Ngaju Dayak**

read by Ben Abel

Sinde andau, atun ije kungan Palanduk  
mananjung manggau sungei ije tege danume, awi  
paham teah belaiie handak mihup.

Once upon time there was a mousedeer walking  
looking for a river that has water because he was  
thirsty and wanted to drink.



Wayah te pandang panjang.  
Kare sungei lepah teah danume.

It was a long dry season  
Most of the river dried out and was without  
water.

Kejau tutu Palanduk mananjung andau te.  
Salenga tarahininge, auh taluh je gutu-gutuk  
bahalap auhe.

Palanduk walked for the whole day  
Suddenly, he heard a beautiful humming sound.

Palanduk mananjung manukep,  
manggau taluh ije gutu-gutuk te.

Palanduk approached it walking  
Looking for the source of the sound

Nyenehe ngambu, auh te hung ngiwa.  
Nyenehe ngiwa, auh te hung ngambu.

He listened up towards the sky, and heard the  
sound below.

He listened down towards the ground and heard  
the sound above!

Rangka-rangkah Palanduk, sambil sele-selek.  
Taragitae taluh je butu-butup hai hung upun  
kayu. Ampie-kilau butup petak, tapi tege  
ampin taluh je tarawang tame-balua bara hete.

He approached slowly while creeping  
He saw something a big mound on the base of a  
tree. It looked like an earth mound but also there  
was also something flying in and out of the  
mound.

Palanduk te munduk manyahukan arepe hung padang ruwut. Narai taluh tuh, kuan Palanduk huang ateie. Paham rami tutu auhe, tuntang ampie ewen te tame balua.

Then palanduk sat down, hiding himself inside a bush. What on earth is that, said Palanduk to himself. It was very noisy, as those things were going in and out.

Hayal tutu Palanduk manampayah taluh te.  
O...kuan palanduk huang ateie.  
Jetuh hirah je tambuk naning kuan taliau bueku  
bihin.

Palanduk was thinking and looking at those  
things.

“Oh,” Palanduk said to himself,  
“This is probably the hornet’s nest that my  
grandpa told me about long ago.”

Ewen tuh tau manuntut tuntang mangarubut,  
kuan Palanduk huang ateie. Taliau bueku bihin  
puji inyasah kawan naning te sampai ie sahewu  
akan danum.

“The hornet can follow you and attack you  
wherever you go,” said Palanduk to himself. “My  
late grandpa was chased and attacked by these  
hornets until he was forced to jump in the river.”



Tapi Palanduk te rajin tutu mahining auh kawan naning te, ije gutu-gutuk, tege au-auh kacapi tuntang rabab, tege au-auh gandang garantung. Kahayalan Palanduk mahining auh te, sampai lembut kantuke.

But Palanduk liked to listen to the humming sound of the hornets, it sounded to him like a *kacapi*, like a *rabab*, like the sound of drums and gongs. Palanduk got carried away until he became sleepy.

Metuh te tege ije kungan Haramaung manggau  
metu akan panginae,  
tuntang tea belai tutu belai handak mihup.  
Janda-jandau ie jadi mananjung, jatun kea ie  
sundau metu.

At that moment, *Haramaung* (giant jungle cat)  
was looking for something to eat.  
He was also thirsty and wanted to drink.  
The whole day he was walking about but couldn't  
find any animals.

Sampai ie tukep hete, tarahininge auh je gutu-  
gutuk te.

En tuh guhup andau ujan, atawae guhup danum  
mahasur bara batu, kuan Haramaung hung ateie.

He arrived nearby, and heard that humming  
sound too.

“Is that the sound of rain or water flowing over  
stones?” said the *Haramaung* to himself.

Sasar tukep ie akan hete, sambil sele-selek,  
kameae tege ewau metu. Tuh ie, kuan  
Haramaung. Kuman sinde tuh. Kanai tuh jadi  
paham bala'u tutu.

He approached closer to that place, creeping,  
and smelled another animal. This is it, said  
*Haramaung*. I am eating this time. My stomach  
is starving!

Haramaung jadi tukep tutu, tapi ie hindai mite Palanduk te, awi ekae puna huang padang ruwut. Haya-hayal Haramaung manyelek, tahunjeke edan kayu matei, palus krak auh edan te bapelek.

*Haramaung* got very close but still he couldn't see *Palanduk*, because *Palanduk* was hiding in the bushes.

*Haramaung's* mind was wandering but he continued stalking. Accidentally he stepped on a dead branch on the ground, KRAK was the sound of the branch breaking.

Palanduk te paham tarewen, palus manampayah akan hila auh je mahiau te. Taragitae Haramaung te jadi puna tukep tutu. Akui...matei aku sinde tuh, kuan Palanduk huang ateie. Tapi Palanduk te metu je paham pintar hayak harati.

*Palanduk* was jolted and looked towards the sound. He saw *Haramaung* already very close. “Goodness! I’m dead meat this time!” said *Palanduk* to himself. But *Palanduk* is always smart and clever.

Te ie pura-pura dia mikeh dengan Haramaung  
te, awi jadi sundaue akal mampahumung  
Haramaung te.

He pretended that he was so afraid of  
*Haramaung*, and got an idea to fool him.

Palus ie mantehau Haramaung te, kuae:  
Akui pahari, taharu tutu angkatku dengam.  
Male-male ih aku handak hasundau dengam,  
tapalanjur kea kue hasundau hung andau tuh.

He called *Haramaung* and said,  
“My goodness brother, I miss you so much!  
Yesterday, I really wanted to meet with you,  
Now what a good coincidence to meet you here  
today!”



Haramaung te nampaliau akan hila auh te,  
taragitae Palanduk te munduk manungket ijange,  
sambil manampayah eka taluh ije gutu-gutuk te.

*Haramaung* turned to the voice,  
and saw *Palanduk* sitting with his chin in his  
hand, while looking at the earthen mound.

Palus tabalang ih Haramaung je handak manangkarap Palanduk te, sana ie auh Palanduk ije kalute.

Narai gawim hetuh? Kuan Haramaung. Tuntang narai je kuam dengangku te?

Then *Haramaung* ended up not wanting to pounce on *Palanduk* because of what he said. “What are you looking at?”, said *Haramaung*. “And what’s all that about missing me?”

Anu...anu...Kuan Palanduk.

Aku tuh sundau sahukan panatau taliau bue itah bihin. Te ie hung upun kayu te. Cuba ikau mahininge, kuan Palanduk.

“Uhh..uhh...”, said Palanduk.

I have found our grandfather's treasure that he hid. It's in the bottom of that tree. Just try and listen to it, said *Palanduk*.

Iyuh lah, kuan Haramaung. Aku enah tege kea mahining taluh je gutu-gutuk te.

Tagal te aku je manukep hetuh kea, kuan Haramaung.

Narai panatau te, kuan Haramaung misek Palanduk.

“Yes, indeed,” said *Haramaung*. I heard that humming sound.

“Because of that I came here,” said *Haramaung*.

“What kind of treasure?” asked *Haramaung* to *Palanduk*.

Kalutuh, kuan palanduk. Uju nyelu tuh limbahe, aku tege hanupi sundau dengan taliau bue itah bihin. Ie mansanan akangku, sahukan panatau te ingkese hung upun kayu hai.

“Like this,” said *Palanduk*. “Seven years after he died, I dreamt I met with our late grandfather. He told me, that he buried a hidden treasure under a big tree.”

Inutup'e hapan butup petak. Akan tandae, are  
ampin taluh ije tarawang tame balua, sambil tege  
auh gandang garantung tuntang kacapi rabab.

“He covered it with dry earth. As a mark, there  
are so many little things going in and out while  
making the sounds of drums, gongs, *kacapi* and  
*rabab*.”

Dan tinai nyuhue aku manggau ikau akan kawalku mungkar manduae, tuntang bagim ayum are bara bagin ayungku, awi ikau esue ije bakas.

“And also he asked me to look for you to be my partner in digging out this treasure. Your part is going to be bigger than mine, because you are the senior.”

Sahelu bara ikau mambungkare, nyuhue aku manduan danum bara rumbak batu ije dia kejau bara he te, hapan kue manjaup baun kue bele kue batulah.

“Before you dig it, he ordered me to fetch water from the stone hole that’s not far away from here, to be used to wash our faces so we don’t incur a taboo.”



Ikau kareh mahining auhku manukiu mansanan  
eka danum te, hayak te palus mambungkar  
manduan panatau te, dan aku manalih ikau  
mimbit danum te hapan kue hajaup.  
Iyuh ih amun kute kuan Haramaung.

“You will hear my voice yelling to let you know  
where the water is, then you can go ahead and  
dig the treasure, and I will come back to you  
bringing the water for us to wash our face.”  
“Alright, if it’s like that.” said *Haramaung*.

Limbah te, Palanduk batulak pura-pura je manggau danum, padahal ie hanjak tutu jadi salamat bara pampatei. Bahancap Palanduk hadari bara hete, jadi sadang kakejaue, harue ie manukiu.

*After that, Palanduk left and pretended to look for water, but actually he was very joyful to have saved himself from a certain death. Quickly, Palanduk ran from there. Then at a certain distance, he yelled loudly.*

Mahining tukiu te, te Haramaung palus manukep tambuk naning te, palus mungkare. Narai taluh je atun. Kawan naning te marubuh mamepet Haramaung te. Sambil mangkariak ie basapa dengan Palanduk ije jadi mananjaru ie.

Listening to the shout, *Haramaung* approached the hornet's nest, and started to dig. What happened then? A swarm of hornets attacked and bit *Haramaung*. He was shouting and swearing at *Palanduk* for lying to him.

Hadari ie ngaju ngawa malapas arepe bara  
puntut maning te. Sampai tantatarang kare upun  
kayu, padang duhi, tatap ih kea naning te  
manyasah mamuntut ie.

He ran upriver and downriver to escape from the  
hornets, bumping into so many trees and thorns,  
but the hornets kept chasing him and stinging  
him.

Kajariae, awi puna jadi kejau tutu ie hadari, te kawan naning te terai manyasah ie, te haluli manalih tambuk ewen hung upun kayu.

By the end, because it was such a long distance that he ran, the hornets finally stopped chasing him and returned to their nest at the base of the tree.

Sana terai kawan naning te mamuntut ie,  
te Haramaung te menter manyarenan tungut  
awan puntut te. Sambil manangis ie manyapa  
Palanduk ije jadi manipu iete. Kareh ie keme  
Palanduk te, kuan Haramaung.

When the hornets stopped biting him,  
*Haramaung* lay down on the ground and nursed  
his stings. While howling, he swore at *Palanduk*  
who tricked him. “I’ll get him one day”, said  
*Haramaung*.

Palalau ie mananjaru aku. Sampai anak esungku kareh panakan Haramaung tatap akan hamusuh dengan panakan Palanduk. Kuan Haramaung.

“He tricked me too badly. Now my children and grandchildren and all those of *Palanduk's* clan will be enemies,” said *Haramaung*.

Biti bereng Haramaung te kembang muau awi puntut naning te. Ie dia ulih miar kanih kate manggau panginae, tuntang kanai sasar bala'u, kajariae, Haramaung matei.

Haramaung's body was swollen and enlarged because of the hornet stings. He could barely move or look for food and his stomach became very hungry. In the end *Haramaung* passed away.



Hanjak tutu atei Palanduk, awi ie jadi lapas bara bahaya pampatei.

Tapi limbah te ie paham batawat tutu miar, awi ie dia katawan Haramaung te jadi matei.

Palanduk was very happy because he escaped from such lethal danger. After that, he was always conscious about where we went, because he didn't know that *Haramaung* was dead.

# **Saritan Bapa Awi Manjual Bajuku**

Ngaju Dayak

read by Ben Abel

Hung sinde andau bapa Awi batulak manyenguk buwu. Buwu te imasange hung ngawa tapian. Bapa Awi manyenguk buwu te hajukung. Sapaie ie eka buwu te palus ie sahewu maneser buwu, imbite akan saran tiwing.

One day Awi's father went to see his fishtrap. The fishtrap that he set downriver from his mooring spot. Awi's father went by with his boat. When he got in there, he dove under the water and brought up the fishtrap to the riverbank.

Salenga taragitae intu huang bueu te, tege taluh ije babilem, tampae lapis tuntang tege pai lenge hapae manggayar. Hau... kuan Bapa Awi. Narai banda tuh? Entuh batu atawa kilen. Tapi mbuhen tau miar. Bapa Awi dia bahanyi mampalua metu te baea huang buwu. Palus muate buwu te akan huang jukung, dan ie mambesei buli.

Suddenly he saw inside the fishtrap something black and it looked flat, and it had hands and legs and was crawling. Wow...said Awi's father, what is this? Is this a rock or what? But why is it moving? Awi's father wasn't brave enough to take it out of the fishtrap so he just put the trap on his boat and rowed it back home.

Sampai hung batang tapian, te ie mantehau Awi ewendue indue. Ite ketun due. narai metu je buah buwuku tuh. Awi ewendue indue muhun akan batang nampayah taluh je buah buwu te.

By then, he got to the mooring place, he called Awi and her mother. Look, both of you. What kind of animal got inside my fishtrap? Awi and her mother went down to the mooring place looking at the fishtrap.

O...kuan Indu Awi. Bajuku arae metu tuh. En, kuan Bapa Awi, metu te tau itah kumae. Tau ih, kuan Indu Awi. Tapi keleh itah manjuale ih, hapa itah manangkiri uyah akan itah muyah ujau bajei. Ikau mimbite bajukung, manjuale akan uluh hung lewu ngawa kanih. Palus Bapa Awi mampalua bajuku te bara huang buwu, dan ingkese melai jukung.

Oh...Awi's mother said. *Bajuku* (a big turtle) is the name of this animal. So can we eat this animal? We can, said Awi's mother. But it is better for us to sell it, or exchange it for salt that we use for cooking bamboo shoots and *bajei* (vegetable). You bring it by boat to sell it to the people in the downriver village. Then Awi's father took out the *bajuku* from the fishtrap and put down on his boat.

Sahelu bara ie batulak, ie miseke tinai aran metu te dengan Indu Awi. Bajuku kuan Indu Awi.

Before he went away, he went to Awi's mother asking for the name of the animal again. "Bajuku", Awi's mother said.

Sambil mabesei masuh, te Bapa Awi mahapal aran metu te, bele ie kalapean. Bajuku...bajuku... bajuku...kuan bapa Awi sambil mambesei. Haya-hayal ie mahapal aran bajuku te, salenga jukunge tantarang dengan kayu bahantung. Palus kalapean bapa Awi aran metu te. Akui kuae, narai aran metu te nah.

While rowing the boat down the river, Awi's father was muttering "bajuku...bajuku...bajuku" so he would memorize it. So he could carried away with memorizing it when suddenly the boat hit a big log floating on the river. Damn it!...What's the name of that animal?



Te ie mambesei tinai haluli miseke dengan indu Awi. Bajuku, kuan indu Awi.

So he rowed back home to ask Awi's mother what the name of the animal was again. "Bajuku", said Awi's mother.

Iyuh, bajuku...bajuku...bajuku...kuan bapa Awi sambil mambesei masuh. Ije, due, katanjung tinai mabesei, kalapeae tinai aran metu te. Narai aran metu te nah, kuan bapa Awi. Gitae matan metu te pite-pitep. Pitep hirah arae, kuan bapa Awi. Te ie mahapale, pitep ... pitep...pitep...kuan bapa Awi hante hante.

*Yes, bajuku, bajuku, bajuku...said Awi's father while he rowed the boat downriver. After one, then two, hours of rowing, he forgot the name of that animal again. What's that animal's name, said Awi's father?*

Gitae matan metu te pite-pitep. Pitep hirah arae,  
kuan bapa Awi. Te ie mahapale, pitep ... pitep ....  
pitep ... kuan bapa Awi hante hante.

He saw the animal's eyes open and close, *pite-pitep*. "Maybe *pitep* is the name of this animal?", Awi's father said. Then he began to memorize: *pitep...pitep...pitep...*said Awi's father all the way to the village.

Sampai ndai ie akan lewu ije inuju. Ie tende hung batang talian uluh. Metuh te are uluh mendeng manampayah bara hunjun tiwing. Narai imbitmu bapa Awi, kuan uluh are. Pitep, kuan bapa Awi tumbang.

He arrived and stopped at the mooring place. At that moment, so many people were standing looking down from the land. “What are you bringing, Awi’s father?”, asked many people. “*Pitep!*” answered Awi’s father.

Hau, kuan uluh are, kilen ampin tampae metu je kalute arae. Te uluh manukep manampayahe O...kuan uluh. Dia kalute arae metu te. Bajuku, kuan ewen. Iyuh kuan bapa Awi, bajuku. Kalapeangku arae. Aku tuh, kuan bapa Awi, manjual bajuku tuh hapaku manangkiri uyah, kuan indu Awi nah, akan hapa muyah ujau bajei.

Wow, said the people, “What does an animal which such a name look like?”. The people came down closer to look at it. “Oh...”, said the people. “That’s not the name of this animal.” “Bajuku”, they said. “Oh yes, bajuku. I forgot it.” “I am here”, Awi’s father said, “to sell this *bajuku* and exchange it with salt for cooking with bamboo shoots and *bajei*.”

Ie uluh manenga akan bapa Awi are kea uyah akan tangkirin bajuku te. Limbah te bapa Awi mambesei buli.

So people gave him much salt in exchange for the animal. After that, Awi's father rowed his boat up the river back home.

Sampai iye hung pulau bajei hung saran sungei te, te ie tende manawur uyah te. Limbah te, sundau tinai ie dengan pulau puring ije are ujaue. Tende kea ie manawur uyah hung pulau puring te, sampai lepah uyah je dinue te.

He arrived at some *bajei* plants on the river bank, and stopped to throw the salt on them. After that, he found a bamboo forest and again stopped to throw the rest on the bamboo shoots until all the salt he received was gone.

Bara hete ie murik palus sampai akan batang taliane, palus buli huma. Kueh ie uyah je dinumah, kuan indu Awi. Maka jadi lepah hapaku muyah pulau ujau bajei kilau kuam dengangku enah, kuan bapa Awi.

From there, he went up the river to his mooring place and then continued home. “Where is the salt you got?”, asked Awi’s mother. “All gone. I used it to salt all the *bajei* and bamboo shoots, just as you told me to do.”, Awi’s father said.

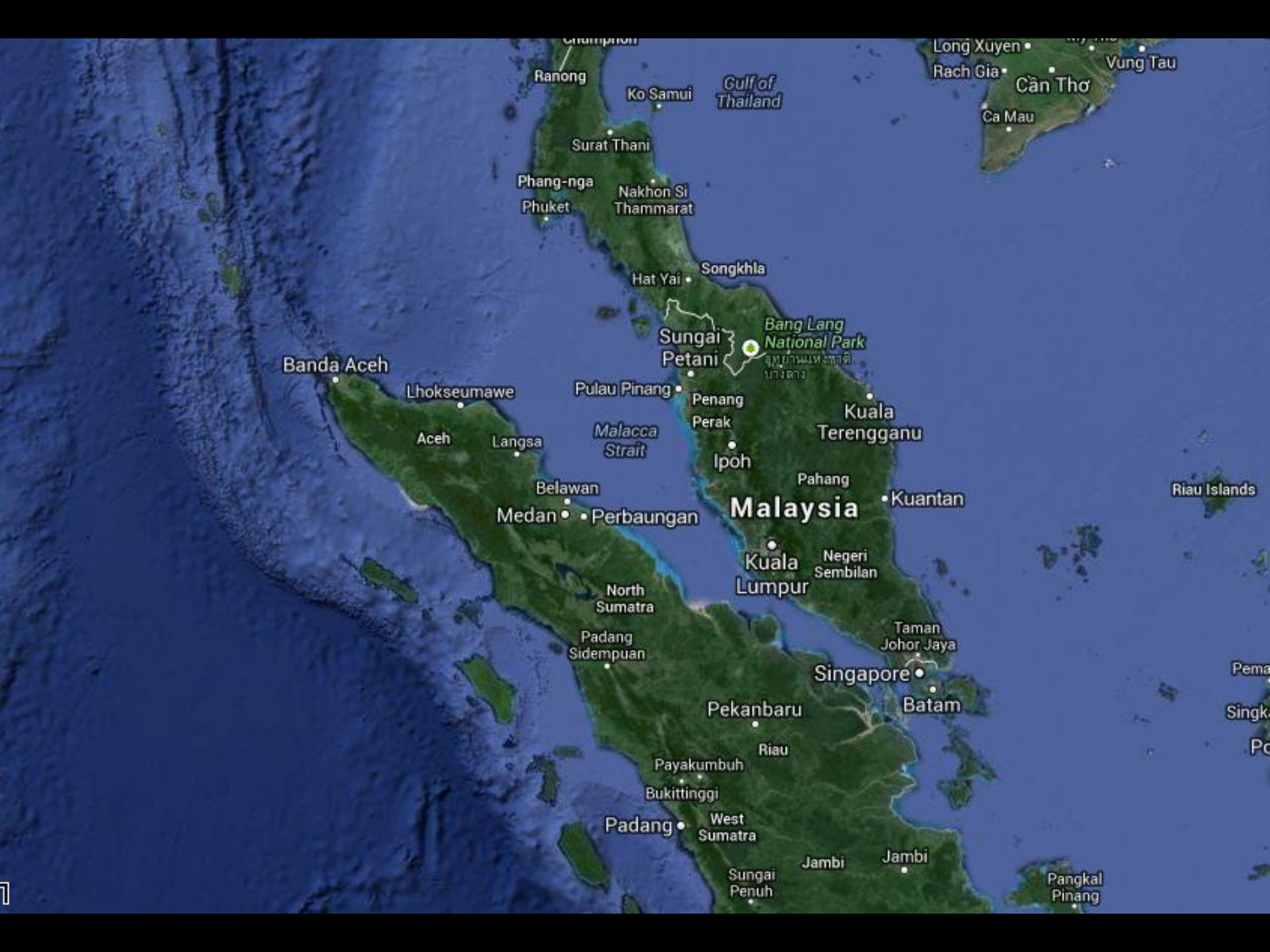


Leha-lehan kahumungmu ikau tuh bapa Awi. Dia je hapa muyah pulaue je kuangku dengam te, tapi hapa itah muyah juhu ujau, atawa juhu bajei.

“What on earth? You are so stupid! I said it was for salting the vegetables but I didn't mean for salting the jungle!”

Nduan indu Awi teteng kayu bara hunjun pahe, palus natale akae takuluk bapa Awi te. Tambalang batun kahumung kahain sangkalan. Limbah te pintar harati ndai bapa Awi. Dia ndai ie humung tuntang tau ndai ie maatur kare taluh gawie.

She took a piece of firewood from the top of the stove, and she smacked Awi's father right on the head. You could see the stupidity stone, as big as a chopping block, flying out. After that, cleverness and intelligence returned to Awi's father. He wasn't stupid anymore and he could organize his life again.



Chumphon

Long Xuyen

Vung Tau

Ranong

Ko Samui

Gulf of Thailand

Rach Gia

Cần Thơ

Ca Mau

Surat Thani

Phang-nga

Phuket

Nakhon Si Thammarat

Songkhla

Hat Yai

Sungai Petani

Bang Lang National Park

Banda Aceh

Lhokseumawe

Pulau Pinang

Penang

Perak

Kuala Terengganu

Aceh

Langsa

Malacca Strait

Ipoh

Pahang

Riau Islands

Belawan

Medan

Perbaungan

Malaysia

Kuantan

Kuala Lumpur

Negeri Sembilan

North Sumatra

Taman Johor Jaya

Padang Sidempuan

Singapore

Batam

Pekanbaru

Riau

Payakumbuh

Bukittinggi

Padang

West Sumatra

Jambi

Jambi

Sungai Penuh

Pangkal Pinang

# Acehnese Pantun

Yusra Zaini

Assalamualaikum saleum lon peuphon  
keu rakan lon mandum syedara  
nibak uroe njoe wahe e kawom  
budaya Aceh jadeh ta buka  
Acara hiburan di America.

*Assalumuallaikum* I begin with a greeting  
to all my friends on this day.

We begin to open Acehnese culture  
with a show in America

Sabab di Aceh chit ka geu maklum, njoe ta mu  
panton chit ka biasa, panton meutuka seusama  
kawom, bukon keuh hukom cuma budaya

Because in Aceh, as it is known  
reciting *pantun* is an ordinary thing  
we trade *pantun* with friends  
not because we must, but as part of our culture

Tapeuglah panton keun keu raya mbong  
guna meusambong geutanjoe dua  
tujuan laen keudeh lon lambong  
hana lon peukrong di dalam ija

We recite *pantun* not because we're so proud  
but to strengthen the connection between us.  
Other purposes don't interest me.  
I won't wrap it in cloth!

Njo pat keuh cara yang na nibak lon,  
lewat panton tanjoe pegah haba,  
panton yang lagak meukerem kelon,  
lon balah sion panton keudua.

This is my way.  
I speak through *pantun*,  
Send me a good pantun  
and I'll send you back another one



Saweub geutanjoe wahe e tungku,  
galak that laku bak pegah haba,  
jarak pih jioh han troh ta tuju,  
laen hai Tungku tamita cara

Because we, *sir*,  
we love to speak.

We are far and cannot reach one another  
so we look for another path

Panton ta balah lewat tulisan  
peulapek lisan meutuka haba  
geulanto lang kah yang han troh keunan  
han mungkin taduek bak jam bo jaga

We trade pantun through writing,  
we recite pantun orally.  
Change the step that won't reach,  
there's no way we'll get to sit in the hall!

Nibak uroenjo wahe rakan lon  
ulon me panton di Amerika  
tanda dikamoe tengku metuah  
nanggroe yang ceudah hanjeut ta lupa.

On this day, my friends,  
I recite pantun in America  
take note, sir,  
a beautiful country is impossible to forget.

Panton lon rawi uroe ngen malam,  
bak saboh jan di Aceh jaya,  
meukemat gaseh ngen sidro insane,  
tebayang-bayang si umu masa

I wrote pantun day and night  
once upon a time in Aceh  
I fell in love with someone  
who was always on my mind

Ulon disino jeu meu rang laout  
han troh neu seu out, bah lon tawok meutaga.  
Lon kirem surat lon takot hantroh lon kirem bungkoh  
takot meu tuka

I am here now across the ocean  
even if I shout, you cannot hear me  
if I send a letter, I'm afraid it won't arrive  
If I send a package, I'm afraid it will be exchanged  
with another one.

Cut bang ka neujak 10 ge meugoe,  
hantom neu wo saweu adinda,  
bijeh dalam krong ka tinggai tika,  
hate lon meu chen keudeh keu kanda

My beloved has already harvested ten times  
but has never visited me  
a seed inside a barn,  
all that's left are straw mats  
How I miss my beloved

Ulon disinoe lon duek bak rinyeun ulon  
meujangeun lam ayoun cinta  
cut bang bagi lon cahaya buleun trang  
uroe ngeun malam sabe lon bungka.

I am here sitting on the steps  
humming on the swing of love  
Beloved, for me, is the light of the moon,  
day and night, forever melancholy.

Cinta yang lon bri kon wayang-wayang  
cinta lon tuan puteh ban mega  
uroe han rusak ujeun han leukang  
hate yang tho krang perele peunawa

The love I give is no joke  
My love is as white as a cloud  
Heat cannot destroy it  
Rain cannot make it crack  
A dry heart needs to be watered!



Bak bineh laout lon duk meujageun  
bak bineh uteun geutanjo meucinta  
teingat baksaboh masa  
wate Tapajoh bu saboh pinggan-pinggan

On the water's edge, I promise,  
at the edge of the forest, we fall in love  
remembering the time  
when we ate from the same plate

Ateuk puncak gle di tebit bintang  
oh jula malam indah meucahaya  
rindu lon yang theun uroe ngen malam  
pajan keuh le kang rindy lon rasa

on top of the mountain, a star emerges  
late at night, it shines beautifully  
the yearning I contain day and night  
when will this longing I feel leave me?

Kru seumangat rahmat meujandreng,  
mirah pati teng na di Amerika,  
maksud hate keuneuk meujandreng,  
tapi kanda jioh di mata.

How fantastic! Mercy comes together  
with a multi-colored pigeon  
my heart wants to come together  
but beloved is far from the eyes

Puteh-puteh sibungong meulu  
leubeh puteh di New York salju  
meujoe rakan keuneuk maju  
bedoh hai Tengku beuawai kerja laju.

The jasmine flower is white  
not as white as the snow of New York.  
If you want to succeed, sir  
wake up early and start working.

Kamoe dinioe na diranto  
sigogo tawo beuteubai beulan ja  
wareh ngon kawom adun ngon adoe, tamumat-  
tamumat jaro tamu wa wa.

Here we are in the diaspora,  
only able to return occasionally,  
we need plenty of money to see friends and  
family,  
we greet each other and embrace

Njo keuh dile panton nibak lon  
meunyo han muphom  
enteuk tapeugah haba  
lon lake meuah lahe ngon baten bek na meu teng  
mandum syedara.

This is where my pantun comes to an end  
If you don't understand, we can talk later  
I ask forgiveness  
lest there should be ill feelings

In front of the door

Aceh

Yusra Zaini

*Dibalah Pinto sue meualoun*

*In front of the door, a voice floats*

*Dara meupanton ngeun hate luka*

*a girl recites *pantun* with a broken heart*

*Wahe cut abang pakon neutinggai lon*

*“Oh my, loved one, why do you leave me?”*

*Neujak ka neutroun ulon hau neuba*



*hudep hudep bahagia tanjoe dalam sejahtera*

*We used to live together happily*

*Hate lon seudah saket di dalam*

*my heart is broken inside and out*

*bak ulon tuan han neubrie*

*You gave me no news.*

*hudep hudep bahagia tanjoe dalam sejahtera*

*We used to live together happily.*