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## The Bago Ballad of Delnagen and Annusan Lumawig

*Florentino H. Hornedo*



"Da Delnagen Ken Annusan Lumawig" is a narrative poem of 446 verses recorded from the singing of *Lakay* Arsenio Ligud, a farmer and respected elder in Barangay Amilongan, Alilem, Ilocos Sur, on 28 December 1989. This poem belongs to Bago literature,<sup>1</sup> and is sung in the Bago dialect which is a mixture of Iloko and Kankanaey.

Another long poem with a nearly identical plot, but with a different setting and characters, was sung by Andres Budeng in Alilem poblacion and recorded by Grace Bangaoil, then a senior in Interdisciplinary Studies at the School of Arts and Sciences, Ateneo de Manila University, in 1984. The Budeng version is titled "Allusan" after the hero of the story (Bangaoil 1985).

Barangay Amilongan, though a part of the municipality of Alilem, is a hinterland village deep in the mountains close to the municipality of Bakun in the northwestern part of Benguet Province. There was hardly any real road in 1989 except for the tortuous and stony bed of the Bakun River that served as "road" in the dry season, but which becomes a raging flood in the rainy season. No motor vehicle had been able to reach Amilongan until January 1990. This relative isolation may have helped develop and maintain some variance in the cultural traditions of the poblacion which is closer to the Ilocos coastal towns of Sudipen and Tagudin, and Amilongan which is neighbor to the Cordillera Kankanaey.

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## The Plot

A maiden named Bangan was famous for her beauty. She lived with her parents in the sunset region (*dapnisan*). A big strong man named Delnagen who raised bananas in the mountains heard about this beautiful maiden. He came to court her, but she refused him, although she treated him politely. Because she was courteous to him, he believed the maiden really had a secret liking for him.

Another young man who lived in the land of the sunrise (*beska-an*) heard of her beauty and also came to court her. His name was Annusan Lumawig. He was handsome and had a light complexion (*lawlawigan*), and there was something of the sunshine in his appearance. He had also magical powers. Bangan fell in love with him, but she had a problem accepting his suit because of her first suitor Delnagen.

Annusan proposed to solve the problem by causing her to appear dead temporarily by siphoning her life-breath into bamboo tubes. Then she could go through the motions of a funeral to make Delnagen forget her, in the belief that she was really dead. When she in her coffin would be cast into the river, he would rescue her and bring her back to life, and then they would marry each other. Bangan agreed, and so they did as planned.

During the wake, Delnagen came and mourned piteously. He was crying and would not eat. On instructions of Annusan who pretended to be mourning, too, Bangan was laid in a coffin and thrown into the river. As soon as the mourners had gone, Annusan came to bring the coffin to the river bank, open it and blow back into Bangan's nostrils her breath of life. She was alive again. And they pledged their love for each other.

Annusan and Bangan followed the river to the upstream region and into Annusan's home in the land of the sunrise. Once there, they prepared to be wed. They sent for Bangan's parents and relatives who lived in the land of the sunset. They also invited the relatives and friends of Annusan, one of whom was Delnagen himself.

The wedding celebration was a grand fiesta that lasted a week. Annusan the magician had turned stumps of large trees and huge stones into pigs and carabaos. These they butchered for the feast. There was great merriment and lots of eating. Everyone had his fill except Delnagen who, in a fit of jealousy and anger, attempted to attack Annusan while he was performing the wedding dance. But the guests stopped him. Annusan tried to calm him and suggested that instead of fighting, they should talk things over. Delnagen would have none of that, and he went on attempting to assault Annusan. So Annusan took his magic cane, cut it in ten

pieces, and ordered the pieces to beat Delnagen till he gave up. Delnagen, sorely beaten and humiliated, went back home.

The wedding celebration resumed, spent in a week of eating and merrymaking and dancing to the enchanting rhythm of the *sollibao* and the *gansa* (gong). Presiding over the ceremonies (*bagat*) were the fathers of the bride and the groom.

The festivities being over, Annusan decided to pay a visit to Delnagen in his mountain home, for he was concerned about how he was after the beating by the magic cane. He came upon him nearly dead. His grief over his loss of Bangan compounded with his physical hurt from the beating had left Delnagen with no desire to live. He refused to eat and was a mere bag of bones when Annusan came.

Annusan dealt with him gently, gave him a sponge bath and a massage, a medical remedy of the region. He explained to him why he had been punished magically and requested that they be reconciled again. By the spell of Annusan, Delnagen recovered his health, and they became friends again.

### The "Da Delnagen Ken Annusan" and the "Allusan"

The two narratives are surely variants of each other, but they have interesting differences of detail, apart from the place of their retrieval. I wish to compare briefly their characters, plots, and setting.

#### Characters

##### "Da Delnagen . . ."

The heroine: Bangan  
The hero: Annusan Lumawig  
The antagonist: Delnagen  
The parents: Pati and Suyan

##### "Allusan"

Donya Maria  
Allusan  
Agillang  
(not given)

#### Plot

Bangan is a famous beauty

Delnagen hears of Bangan; courts her  
but is rejected

Annusan hears of her; courts her; is accepted	Allusan while in search of a bride finds Donya Maria; is accepted but wedding is delayed because Allusan has to go home for provisions
Bangan's problem of an earlier suitor is solved by Annusan	Maria has problem with new suitor who insists on marrying without the lady's consent; Allusan solves problem
	Maria marries Agillang; he brings her to his home
Annusan sucks Bangan's life-breath into bamboo pipes; she appears dead, witnessed by Delnagen	Allusan sucks Maria's life-breath into a bamboo tube; she appears dead, witnessed by Agillang
Bangan in a coffin is cast into the river; is retrieved by Annusan; Bangan revived	Maria in a coffin is cast into the river; is retrieved by Allusan; Maria revived
Annusan and Bangan get married	Allusan and Maria get married
Delnagen causes trouble at wedding; is beaten by magic cane and goes home	Agillang causes trouble at wedding; is beaten by magic cane and goes home
Wedding celebration goes on	Wedding celebration goes on
After the wedding, Annusan visits Delnagen; with persuasion and magic spell, they are reconciled	

### Setting

Annusan is from the east, upstream	Allusan is from the west, downstream
Delnagen is from the midland mountains	Agillang is from Kapangan, Benguet
Bangan is from the west	Maria is from the midland region
Wedding takes place in the east, in Annusan's home	Wedding takes place in Maria's place

Coffin is cast into the river

Coffin is cast from upstream

Travel to east and west is through the  
bed and banks of the Bakun River

Travel upstream and downstream is  
through the bed and banks of the  
Amburayan River

### The Text and Translation

The Bago text of "Da Delnagen Ken Annusan Lumawig" presented here was recorded on 28 December 1989. Raconteur-singer-informant was Lakay Arsenio Ligud, farmer, over seventy at the time of recording, of Barangay Amilongan, municipality of Alilem, Ilocos Sur. Ligud is Bago and speaks the Bago dialect which is a mixture of Iloko and Kankanaey. He is a carrier of the rich lore and mythology of his people, and is a Christian.

The recording on magnetic tape was transcribed by Saturnino Baltazar who also did the preliminary translation. Mr. Baltazar was born in Barangay Anannao, Alilem, Ilocos Sur, and is a native speaker of the Bago dialect. He is a clerk of court in the municipality of Bakun, Benguet. I rechecked the transcription and preliminary translation against the recording, and then edited it.

The division into lines of verse follows the division into verses in the sung version of Lakay Arsenio. There being no pattern of stanza division based on rhyme or music, the stanzaic division has been arbitrary, although in general, unity of thought has been the rule so that often, a sentence makes up a stanza. The numerals in the left-hand column have been provided for easy reference.

The music awaits transcription into musical notation and ethnomusicological study for which I have no competence. This article merely wishes to present a Bago poetic text seeing print for the first time.

The translation is meant for the average reader, so whereas fidelity to the diction of the original has been a general rule, where such fidelity renders the translation obscure, dynamic equivalence is used.

DA DELNAGEN KEN ANNUSAN LUMAWIG

*Sung by:* Lakay Arsenio Ligud  
*Recorded at:* Amilongan, Alilem, Ilocos Sur  
*Date recorded:* 28 December 1989

- Adda maistoryak nga sarsarita  
Ti a-appo iti immun-una nga aldaw,  
Idi bassitak pay met la nga agtutubo,  
Ta adda kano dagiti tao nga immun-una  
5 Nga managan iti Delnagen ken Annusan Lumawig.

- Daytoy Delnagen, agbalbalay iti kabanbantayan  
Nga agmulmula t' saba;  
Daytoy Annusan, agbalay met iti beska-an  
Wenno leggakan ti init.  
10 Baro dagidiay nga agpadpada.

- Adda met ni Bangan nga balasang.  
Agdinamag nga balasang dayta;  
Pagi-innapalan amin ti tao  
Nga agbalay ditoy dapnisan.  
15 Idi nadamag ni Delnagen daytoy nga balasang,  
Napanna inarem. Kitkitaenna;  
Kasla mayat met ti riknana nga mangkitkita.  
Gapu ta ibagana diay riknana,  
Ay, ket madi diay babae!  
20 Ngem ipapilit met laeng diay lalaki iti pagayatanna.  
Ket gapu ta ipateg met didiay babae  
Didiay paglamanoda kasla pagpakadana,  
Kasla metten isu ti pammawidan daytoy lalaki  
Nga ayaten didiay babae wenno't balasang  
25 Didiay lalaki nga managan iti Delnagen.

- Ket idi kasta, nagsubli ni Delnagen,  
Nangipan iti mulana nga saba.  
Ket impakitana ti kabaelanna nga pigsa,  
Maysa nga ima, maysa nga pamunga,  
30 Maysa nga ima, maysa nga pamungan;  
Sabali ti adda iti abaga.  
Dayta nga kinapigsa, saggaysa nga bulig;  
Impanna idiay ayan ti balasang.

DELNAGEN AND ANNUSAN LUMAWIG

*Sung by: Lakay Arsenio Ligud*  
*Recorded at: Amilongan, Alilem, Ilocos Sur*  
*Date recorded: 28 December 1989*

I have a story to tell  
From our elders in the olden days  
When I was still a growing little boy.  
There were, it is said, these men of old  
5 By the name of Delnagen and Annusan Lumawig.

This Delnagen lived in the mountains  
Where he raised bananas;  
And this Annusan lived in the East  
Or where the sun rises.  
10 They were both unmarried.

There was also this Bangan, a young maiden;  
She was a maiden so widely known.  
To her were attracted all the people  
Who lived in this sunset region.

15 When Delnagen heard of this maiden,  
He went to court her. He looked for her.  
And he felt good as he looked at her.  
And when he had told her how he felt,  
The woman said she did not like him.

20 But the man insisted that he loved her.  
And because the lady wished to be polite  
And shook his hand as he bade good-bye,  
The man came to believe that truly  
That lady, that maiden, really loved him,  
25 That man who is called Delnagen.

And so Delnagen returned home  
And went to see his banana plants.  
He wanted to show how strong he was:  
In one hand he held one bunch,  
30 And in the other, another bunch;  
And on his shoulder still another.  
O, what strength that was—on each a bunch!  
And he brought these to the maiden's place.



- Nadamag met daytoy agnagan iti Annusan Lumawig  
35 Nga umili ditoy beska-an.  
Idi bumaba surotennan ti karayan,  
Ta isu ti ammona nga dalan,  
Ta taga-dapnisan ni Bangan.

- Idi mapan nga ibagana manen ti riknana,  
40 Medyo mayat didiay balasang manen  
Gapu ta kasla silsilawan met ti init  
Ti kitkitaenna piman nga baro  
A, ta naggapu met iti beska-an ni Annusan Lumawig.

- Idi ibagana ti riknana,  
45 Kunan kano daytoy balasang,  
"Adda metten nangibaga  
Iti riknana kaniak, ket narigat sa."

- Ket idi kano nga kastan,  
Iti inalamid ni Annusan,  
50 "Kunak kenka, O ading nga balasang  
Nga managan iti Bangan,  
Adingko anu-anusam daytoy numo iti biang  
Ta aramidek ti pamuspusan  
Uray ania't mapasamakmo a balasang,  
55 Paungarengkanto iti kamaudianan,"  
Kunan kano ni Annusan Lumawig.

- Nangaramid iti dua nga kalinyas;  
Insul-opnan idiay agong ti balasang.  
Ket tattan natayen idiay ayan ti tawa  
60 Nga nagtantan-awan ti balasang.

- Gapu piman ta di makauray  
Toy baro nga managan Annusan  
Intangadnan tay kalinyasnan  
Intulok met tay balasang,  
65 Ta pagayatan piman tay kapanunotan.

Ket idi kano nga kastan  
Napaidda idiay tawada piman,  
Nagawid metten ni Annusan,  
Nagsubli idiay beska-an.

This was heard by a man called Annusan Lumawig  
 35 Who lived in the sunrise region.  
 And when he came down he followed the river  
 For that was the path he knew,  
 Since Bangan was of the sunset region.

When it was his turn to express his love,  
 40 The maiden was somewhat attracted to him, too,  
 For it looked as if the sun was shining  
 Upon the young man she beheld before her—  
 Ah! For Annusan Lumawig is from the sunrise land.

When he expressed his love for her,  
 45 The maiden, it is told, said to him,  
 "Someone ahead of you has expressed  
 His love for me, and that puts me in a fix."

Because that was the case,  
 Annusan devised a way out, saying,  
 50 "I tell you, my little darling girl,  
 Whose name is Bangan,  
 Please be patient with my lowliness,  
 For I will find a real solution  
 No matter what happens to you, young lady,  
 55 I'll bring you back to life in the end,"  
 Said Annusan Lumawig.

He made two bamboo pipes  
 And put them in the maiden's nostrils,<sup>2</sup>  
 So she fell lifeless by the window  
 60 Where the lady was watching.

Because he could not wait,  
 This young man named Annusan  
 Took the bamboo pipes  
 And by them siphoned the lady's life,  
 65 For she also agreed to the plan.

And this having been done, it is said,  
 She was lying [dead] by their window;  
 Annusan then went home,  
 Returning to the sunrise region.

- 70 Idi malagip kano met ni Delnagan ti bumisita,  
 "Mapanak man ta innak sukanan."  
 Nagtebba manen iti saba.  
 "Ta innak sesetan no ania ti kayat na."

- Ngem idi mapan ket, ne!  
 75 Madamdagnan nga natay ni Bangan;  
 Ket nagsangsangit nga napan,  
 Inan-anusanna latta ti napan—  
 Napanna dinung-dung-awan.

- "Adingko nga balasang,  
 80 Aya unayen ti napasamakmo gayam,"  
 Kinunkunana kan piman;  
 Ket idi kano nga kastan,  
 Nagtugawen idia palaangan,  
 Nagsangsangit kanon lattan,  
 85 Pulos a di payen mangan.

- Ket idi manen nga kastan,  
 Nadamag manen daytoy Annusan  
 Nga ammona nga nasul-oy tay angesna piman,  
 "Ta mapanak man nga mapan,  
 90 Ta ibilinko tay maikastan,  
 Tapno maalamid tay pamuspusan,"  
 Kunana kan ni, ay, Annusan;  
 Ket nagbaba idtoy karayan.

- Idi kano dumanon dayta  
 95 Nga ni Annusan idia dapnisan,  
 Adda kano manen nga lallaawanda  
 Dayta nga balasang nga sangsangitan.

- Ket nakitana ni Delnagen nga agtugtugaw  
 Idia palaangan nga agsangsangit.  
 100 Pulos a di pay mangan  
 Nakakutkuttongen iti bisinnan  
 Ta saan ngarud nga mangan.

- Iti kunan kano met ni Annusan  
 Nga inliwiliwa met iti dayta nga balasang,  
 105 "Ay adingko nga balasang,  
 Aya unayen daytoy inkastam  
 Ta madamdagko daytoy inka kabalasang  
 Ket inka met gayam inkastan.

- 70 Delnagen also thought of paying a visit.  
 "I will go and see what's happening."  
 So he cut bananas once again, saying,  
 "I will go and find out what she really wants."

- But when he went, what a shock!  
 75 He heard the news that Bangan was dead;  
 And he went, crying along the way.  
 Very patiently he went—  
 He went to perform the mourning rites.

- "My little darling lady,  
 80 What suffering you must have gone through!"  
 He was exclaiming pitifully.  
 And in that sad condition  
 He sat there by himself in the yard<sup>3</sup>  
 Doing nothing but crying,  
 85 And he would not even eat.

- And this being the situation,  
 News once more reached Annusan,  
 Though he knew her breath was merely sipped out.  
 "Now I will have to go there  
 90 To give instructions on what to do  
 So that the remedy can be undertaken,"  
 Thus spoke, who else, but Annusan;  
 And he came down through the river.

- And when he arrived, it is told,  
 95 This Annusan, in the sunset land,  
 They were crying with sorrow,  
 Weeping over the lifeless maiden.

- And he beheld Delnagen sitting  
 In the yard and weeping,  
 100 Who would not even eat,  
 Who was growing very thin with hunger  
 Because he would not eat.

- And so Annusan thus pretended  
 That he also was mourning for the lady,  
 105 "Oh, my darling little lady,  
 What a pity you have done this!  
 For I have heard so much about your beauty,  
 But look at what has happened to you!"

- “Ngem ulay pay no kastan,  
110 Gagayyemko wenno kakabsatnan  
Ibakak man daytoy istorian  
Ta intay koma aramiden dayta inna pagsayaatan,”  
Kunkuna kano ni Annusan.

- Imbaganan nga, “Agaramidkay iti lungon  
115 Ta saantayo nga ikali ditoy daga  
No di ket itapuaktay’ ditoy danum  
Ta saan nga idtoy daga ti pakaikuaana  
No di ket ditoy danum ti pangipatawan tayo  
Balbaleng no addanto panagungalna  
120 Makaisalakan iti biagna,” kunana kano.

Ni met Delnagen dengdenggenna  
Didiay nga istorya ngem  
Dina met ipagpagarup ti remedyo ni Annusan.

- Ken idi kan nga kasta  
125 Tinungpal kano dagiti tattao  
Didiay nga imbagana  
Nga maaramid idiay natay nga balasang  
Nga pagribalan ti dua nga lallaki.

- Apaman nga nalpas ti lungon inlas-uddan  
130 Ket impandan idiay sabangan  
Nga isu’t inda nangitapuakan  
Ket ammon ti tao nga inyanuddan, a.

- Ay gapu ta mannakabalin kano piman  
Ni sumaglalaki nga Annusan,  
135 Annusan Lumawig ditoy beska-an,  
Innalana kano daytay kalinyasnan  
Nga inna nangsoltupan  
Idi agawid dagitay tattao gayam.

- Inlangoynan daytay lungon nga impaigid.  
140 Pinuyotannan daytay agongnan.  
Nagungalen dytay balasang.

- “Intanen, agpasurongtan;  
Surotenta daytoy karayan  
Ta agawidtan idiay beska-an,  
145 Ta datan daytay agtumpung

"Yet, things be as they may,  
 110 My friends or her relatives all,  
 Let me tell you this story,  
 So we do now what will give it a happy ending,"  
 Annusan thus declared.

And he said, "Make a coffin  
 115 For we will not bury her in the ground,  
 Instead we will throw her into the water  
 For she should not be buried in the ground  
 But let us float her on the water  
 Where perchance she may come to life again,  
 120 Where her life may still be saved," said he.

Delnagen, meanwhile, was listening  
 To what was being said; however,  
 He did not believe in Annusan's solution.

And so since that was the case  
 125 The people did, it is said,  
 What he had told them  
 With regards to the dead maiden  
 Over whose love two men were rivals.

The coffin being finished, they put her in  
 130 And brought her to the mouth of the river  
 Where they went to cast her away;  
 And the people knew, of course, she floated away.

But because of the magical powers  
 Of the very handsome man Annusan,  
 135 Annusan Lumawig of the sunrise region,  
 He took, it is said, his bamboo pipes  
 Where he kept the breath of the lady,  
 When the people had all gone home.

He swam with the coffin to the river bank.  
 140 He blew her breath back into her nostrils,  
 And the lady came to life again.

"Let us go, let us go upstream now.  
 Let us follow the river  
 And go home to the land of the sunrise,  
 145 There to live in harmony

- Nga agkagasat kan gayam  
Ta imbagak met daytay riknak  
Ket mayatka met idtay tulagan,"  
Kunan kan ni sumaglalaki nga Annusan,  
150 Annusan nga lawlawigan.
- Ket idi kan nga nagtugawda piman ay ket nagsaoda,  
Palalo nga ay-ayatna daydi balasang  
Idi makitana diay met nga ay-ayatenna  
Nga ni Annusan idia'y beska-an nga lawigan  
155 Nga alintebag ti sey-ang.
- Ta idi kan nga nagtulagdan  
Sinolotdan daytoy kalayan  
Nagturongda ditoy beska-an,  
Linabasanda pay toy Ampusongan.
- 160 Ta idi dumanonda ditoy beska-an  
Nga legleggakan ti init kan gayam,  
Kinunana met ni Annusan,  
"Ay adingko nga balasang,  
Kasennaayko ditoy kadagaan,  
165 Aramidek man daytoy pagragsakan  
Ta ayabanta da amam ken ni inam  
Nga umili met idia'y dapnisan,  
Ken kakabsatmo met nga katulang  
Ta inta man parambakan  
170 Ti pagayatanta met nga agassawan,"  
Kinuna kano ni Annusan.
- Ta idi kan met nga kastan  
Tinuboyan ni Annusan  
A gayam dagiti bebessa-ang  
175 Animal man ken babboyan;  
Nagdadakkelda kan met piman,  
Didia'y baboy ti kakabsatnan.
- Ken kasta pay ipakitanan  
Ti pannakabalin ni Annusan  
180 Aplusanna pay tay balintaugan  
Ket agbalinda nga nuang.
- Aplusanna ti popongdol nga kadakkelan,  
Agbalinda manen nga babboyan;

And have our fortune and happiness  
 Since I have revealed to you my love  
 And you accepted my suit,"  
 Said the handsome man Annusan,  
 150 Annusan of the color of sunshine.

And when they sat down, oh! how they talked.  
 The lady fell even more in love  
 Upon seeing the one she loved—  
 Annusan of the East with complexion light,  
 155 Whose complexion was like the sunlight.

Having come to an agreement  
 They travelled upstream following the river  
 On their way to the land of the sunrise;  
 They even passed by Ampusongan.  
 160 When they arrived in the East  
 Where rises the sun and happiness,  
 Annusan then said,  
 "My little darling lady,  
 My partner in sorrow on this earth,  
 165 I will have this happy celebration  
 And we call your father and your mother  
 Who live there in the West,  
 And your brothers, sisters, and relatives too,  
 And let us celebrate  
 170 Our mutual love in marriage,"  
 Declared Annusan, it is said.

Because that was how it was,  
 Annusan cast a spell  
 And transformed things around him,  
 175 And they became animals and pigs;  
 O, how big they were!  
 The pigs were his brothers.

And that's how Annusan showed  
 His powers of enchantment.  
 180 He touched the big stones  
 And they turned into carabaos.

He touched large stumps of trees  
 And they became hogs;



- Maysa met nga kadakkelan  
185 Dagiti baboy nga naaplosan.  
Ayabandan dagiti kakabsatda  
Nga umili ditoy dapnisan.
- “Ngem dagasenyo man ni Delnagen  
Idiay kabanbantayan ta umay met makilaman  
190 Ta gayyemko met ni Delnagen iti kabanbantayan,  
Asideg sa ‘diay Amilongan.
- Ta idi kano a kastan  
Dinagasda ni Delnagen kano piman;  
Napanda idiay beska-an  
195 Ilugidan ti ay-ayam nga gang-gangsa  
Ken sollibao kano piman  
Piesta ti imun-una nga isu  
Tay bagat nga kunkunadan.
- Ket kinunan dagitay ammadan,  
200 “Ala man dakayo man nga agassawan  
Ti mangilukat iti ay-ayam,”  
Kunada kano dagitay agabalayan,  
I-dapnisan ken i-beska-an  
Nga isu kano met dagiti makuna nga ammadan  
205 Nga da Pati ken ni Suyan.
- Ta idi kano nga kastan  
Inggunayen ni Annusan  
Tay ules nga kapapategan  
Nga nagul-ugol-usan  
210 A kasta metten ken ni Bangan.
- Idi aglibotda iti palaangan  
Nga itang-tang-ida tay sayawdan,  
Apo, matang-tang-i pay daytoy daga,  
Ket matang-tang-i met tay agbuybuya  
215 Piman iti ay-ayatda  
Kasla met la nga isulsulotda  
Piman dagitay bagbagida.
- Idi kan metten nga gumura  
Ni Delnagen nga nangun-una  
220 Piman nga kalibalna  
Innalana metten tay ginmura  
Tumakderen daytay luksawna.

They also became the biggest  
 185 The pigs that had been touched.  
 Then they sent for their relatives  
 Who lived here in the West.

"And please fetch Delnagen  
 From the mountains so he can join us,  
 190 For Delnagen of the mountains is my friend.  
 He probably lives near Amilongan."

That being the request,  
 They did drop in to fetch Delnagen;  
 Then they went back to the East.  
 195 They started playing the gongs  
 And the *sollibao*, too.  
 (A ritual ceremony of the ancients  
 Is this feast called the *Bagat*.)<sup>4</sup>

And their parents said,  
 200 "Come on, it is you who are getting married  
 Who should open the entertainment,"  
 So declared the parents-in-law,  
 Both from the West and from the East  
 Who are known as their fathers  
 205 Whose names were Pati and Suyan.

And it was thus arranged,  
 Annusan took and began to shake  
 The most expensive ritual blanket  
 The one with beautiful border tassels;  
 210 And Bangan did the same.

When they paraded around the yard  
 Swaying to and fro as they danced,  
 My, o, my, the earth was also swaying,  
 And the audience were also swaying.  
 215 Oh! How happy and excited they were!  
 It seemed that their bodies were swaying  
 To imitate those of the dancing couple.

It was at this time that a fit of jealousy  
 Came upon Delnagen the first suitor,  
 220 Toward his rival.  
 He developed an enmity;  
 He stood up in his anger.

- Timmakderen idiay palaanganda  
 Ket duklosenna ti kunana  
 225 Ni Annusan nga agsalsala  
 Dagus metten nga inatipa  
 Dagiti tao nga mangikanawa.
- "Agurayka pay ta ituloyda  
 Ta ganasentayo pay ti agbuya  
 230 Ta sakayto agsarita  
 Ta isu dayta ti kustoyo koma,"  
 Kinunada nga nagatipa.
- Gapu laeng ti luksawna,  
 Agbulbulongko laeng latta  
 235 Agliblibot idiay balayda.
- "O gayyemko nga Delnagen,"  
 Kunan kano ni Annusan,  
 "Pangaasim ta agtugawka  
 Ta tanangenta tay agsarita,"  
 240 Kinuna kan ni Annusan nga nagkuna  
 Gapu laeng iti igugurana,  
 Apo laeng ti duklosna.
- "Pangaasiyo man ta umay,"  
 Kinunan kano ni Annusan.  
 245 Pinutedna metten didiay  
 Salukodna nga uway,  
 "Ala, dakayo ti lumabanen,"  
 Kinunana kano met ni Annusanen,  
 Ket pinuted-putedna metten  
 250 Didiay salukodna nga uway.  
 Apo, dayta, pang-ol ti linaklak-amna  
 Ni Delnagen. Ali, baut.
- Idi kano met nga kastan  
 Agsangsangiten ni Delnagen  
 255 A piman nga bimmaban  
 Ta di pay makatingtinggan  
 'Dina pay intuloy ti nangan  
 Nagsublin didiay balaydan.
- Ta maituloy pay daytay inkastan man  
 260 Ti ragragsak, ta kan nagawid ni Delnagan

He stood there on their yard  
 And was going to attack  
 225 Annusan who was dancing,  
 But he was quickly restrained  
 By the people who came to the rescue.

"Wait awhile and let them go on  
 And let us enjoy watching first,  
 230 And then you can talk things over later,  
 For that is how it ought to be,"  
 Said the people who restrained him.

But because of his anger,  
 He continued to be violent  
 235 And was roving around the house.

"O, my friend, Delnagen,"  
 Pleaded Annusan, it is said,  
 "Please calm down and take a seat  
 And we will talk about this matter calmly."  
 240 And Annusan said this for he thought  
 That it was all because of his hate,  
 The cause of his attack.

"Please let him come to me,"  
 Was what Annusan said.  
 245 He cut into several pieces  
 His cane made of rattan,  
 "There you are—do the fighting yourselves,"  
 Annusan ordered them,  
 The many pieces which he cut  
 250 His cane that was made of rattan.  
 My, o, my! What a beating he got!  
 This Delnagen! Whipped every way.

Because of all that, it is said,  
 Delnagen was already crying  
 255 And he had to go down by himself,  
 For he could not even parry the blows,  
 He did not even continue to eat,  
 And he went back to their house.

Then the happy celebration continued  
 260 Because Delnagen had gone home;

Ituloyda lattan tay ay-ayam  
Nga bagbagat ti immun-una.

- Ay, ket alaenda dagitay baboyen—  
Ala, dalupenda, iluk-atda  
265 Dagitay baboy iti palaangan.

- Kinuna manen ni Annusan,  
Mannakabalin metten gayam,  
"Baboyko nga kaputotan ditoy beska-an,  
Ha'nyo man nga bannogen ti tao.  
270 Agiddakayon tapno maipakita met ti ayatko  
Nga mangipaay met kadagiti padak nga tao  
Wenno kakabsatko," kinunana kano met piman.

- Magsi-iddan tay baboyen  
Kasla urbon ti nuang  
275 Ti kadadakkelda kan piman.

- Paalana manen dagitay nuang,  
"O talakenko nga nuang,  
Inapulusak nga balintaugan,  
Ha'nyo man nga ipakpakitan  
280 Tay kinapigsayo kan gayam  
Ta ayatko daytoy a maipakitan  
Kasta met nga inkay agiddan  
Ta mauyos ti biagyo ditoy dagan,"  
Kinunana metten ni Annusan.

- 285 Ne! Magsi-ida met idan  
Dagitay nuang kada baka,  
Dayta la agleppetken ken agngulongol.

- Kasta metten dagitay baboy,  
Maintaldan ket inulnosdan  
290 Dagitay baboy; ket dagitay nuang  
Isu ti pinaltida nga immun-una.

- Ket kinuna kano piman  
A dagiti ammada iti dapnisan ken beska-an  
Nga da Pati ken ni Suyan,  
295 "Ala, unaenyo pay dagiti nuang  
Ta agalamidkay' iti pulotan."

And they continued the merry-making  
Which was a ritual of the ancients.

So they tried to get the pigs—  
They catch them, but they always get away,  
265 Those pigs in the yard!

So Annusan ordered them—  
He had powers of enchantment after all—  
"My tailless pigs here in the land of the sunrise,  
Do not cause the people to get tired.  
270 Lie down now so I can show my desire  
To show my respect to people like me,  
Or my relatives," said Annusan.

So the pigs all lay down;  
And they were all as large, it is said,  
275 As large as the young of the carabao.

Then he had the carabaos fetched.  
"O, carabaos whom I raised,  
Whom I made by touching the big stones,  
Don't you try to make a show  
280 Of your strength and powers,  
For it is my desire to show  
That you just lay down yourselves now,  
For your life on earth is about to end,"  
Thus spoke Annusan once again.

285 And, oh! They all lay down,  
All those carabaos and cows,  
They just tied them up and slashed their throats.

They did the same to the pigs,  
In an orderly manner they lined up  
290 The pigs; and the carabaos  
Were the ones they cut up first.

And they spoke, it is said,  
Their parents from the West and from the East,  
Who are called Pati and Suyan,  
295 "Come on, butcher first the carabaos  
And prepare the *pulotan*."

- Idi inaramid kanon dagiti tattao  
 Dagidiay nga mandar, kinunada met,  
 "A, ta ituloytay' ti ay-ayam  
 300 Ta inkami met pasingkedan nga agabalayan  
 Ta isu ti pakakitaan met  
 Ti inkami panagabalayan  
 Ta manayaw ditoy palaangan;  
 Ayatmi ditoy annakmi met gayam  
 305 Nga agassawa ditoy beska-an."

- Ne, igunayda manen ti sollibao  
 Ket manollibaodan a.  
 Idi aguni manen ti gangsa,  
 Apo, daytay ikasta daytay mangangsa met  
 310 Matuttuod daytay ubetna daytay mangangsa  
 Ket, ala, matuttuod met  
 Dagitay ubet dagitay tattao.

- Magsi-magsi-aggunay kano met dagitay tao,  
 "Ngem aguray pay ta dakami ti umuna,"  
 315 Kunan kano met dagitay agabalayan,  
 Ta idi kan ipakitada piman dagiti ayatda.

- Ay apo, kasla nga nagkulimbawa gayam  
 Ti pudot ti init ditoy daga  
 A gayam iti liknada  
 320 Dagiti tao nga agbuybuya  
 Kasla magingin-awaan dagiti matada  
 Piman iti talna ti salsala.

- Idi kano kua sumublat dagitay tattao,  
 Ay apo kano daytay ubetna  
 325 Ni Saklalew nga mangangsa,  
 Kasla kano kappi nga agsikigsikig  
 Nga masusuwat daytay ubetna  
 Nga itu-tuwatona kano, ket, ne,  
 Ay apo, dagitay tattao kano  
 330 Ta matuttuod dagitay ubetda  
 Ituktukawda kano met  
 Nga gumangganatda nga manayaw.

- Ta idi kano nga kastan  
 Di kano met nga agpatpatinggan  
 335 Makaluto met dagitay tattao kan gayam

When the people had finished  
 What had been ordered, they said,  
 "Let us continue the merrymaking  
 300 For we will confirm as parents-in-law  
 And show by these rites  
 That we are truly in-laws now,  
 And we dance here in the yard;  
 For it is truly our desire for our children  
 305 That they wed here in the land of the sunrise."

Without ado, they got again the *sollibao*  
 And they appear to play it well.  
 And when the gong sounded again,  
 Wow! The gong player played well, too!  
 310 How the gong player's buttocks swayed upwards!  
 And, oh! swaying upwards, too,  
 Were the buttocks of all the people.

Everybody was anxious to dance,  
 "But please wait for we dance first,"  
 315 Said the new parents-in-law,  
 For they wanted to show their approval.

Oh, my! It seemed as if the heat of the sun  
 Had come down to earth  
 With the excitement they felt;  
 320 For the people who were watching,  
 Their eyes were filled with delight  
 With the gracefulness of the dance.

And when it was the people's turn to dance,  
 O, my! O, my! The buttocks  
 325 Of Saklalew the gong player,  
 He was like a crab as he danced sideways  
 With his buttocks gyrating  
 And swaying now upwards, then down!  
 O, my! Those people, it is said,  
 330 Their buttocks swayed upwards  
 As they bent their bodies down,  
 And anxiously, tirelessly dancing.

As this was going on,  
 It looked as if it would never end;  
 335 The chefs were cooking and enjoying



Nga agbuybuya ken aglutluto kan piman  
Inatipada kan daydiayen nga ay-ayam.

- “Ala, italnayo pay ti ay-ayam  
Ta intay’ pay agpulotan  
340 Ta naluton ti pulotan,”  
Kinunada kano dagitay aglutluto.

- Ala, ket isu a,  
Inatipa kano metten dagitay agabalayan  
Ta, asiay, saan nga masellsellan  
345 Ti tao nga maayatan nga manayaw.

- Apo, ta mabanbannog kano pay  
Ni Saklalewen nga kuwan manganggansa.  
Nanayawenna ti singkuwenta nga tattao,  
Ket nababannog. “Isu,” kinuna ni Saklalew.  
350 “Ket, ala, nasayaat met ta aginanaak,”  
Kinuna kano met ni Saklalew nga kuwa  
Ket kasta met didiay sumasallibao met  
Nga kapalisna, isu, naginanada met,  
Nagpulotanda, sadanto manen ituloy ti mangan.  
355 Idi kano malpas ti kaan,  
Itultuloyda manen ti ay-ayam.  
Ay apo, awan la ti maum-uman gayam  
Gapu iti ay-ayatda iti gangsa  
Gapu ta kasla agwalwalnak ditoy daga,  
360 Kasla dumandanon ‘diay baba  
Ti ayenge-eng ti gangsa.

- Idi kinunada kano,  
“Ala, nalpas metten ti kaan  
Ket nabanbannogtayon  
365 Ket ala, nalpas metten ti bagat  
Ket ala, ta agsisinatayon  
Ket matikawaan met diay balbalayen  
A ta maka-dominggotayo ditoyen,”  
Kunan kano manen dagitay agabalayan.  
370 Ta idi kanon nga kastan  
Nga nagtulag ti agabalayan  
A da Pati ken ni Suyan,  
“Intanen nga agabalayan,

Watching, and cooking at the same time.  
So they decided to stop the merrymaking.

"Now, stop the merrymaking for a while  
And let us partake of the *pulotan*,  
340 For the *pulotan* is now ready,"  
Announced the cooks, it is said.

And so that was what they did—  
The parents-in-law had to stop it  
For the people could not be stopped  
345 From enjoying the dance.

Heavens! For now Saklalew was exhausted,  
The man who played the gong.  
He played for fifty dancing people  
Who were also tired, so said Saklalew.  
350 "So, it is good for me to rest,"  
Thus spoke Saklalew the gong player,  
And the same was true of the *sollibao* player  
Who was his partner, so they rested,  
And had *pulotan*, then later took their meal.

355 And when the meal was over,  
They resumed their merrymaking;  
And I swear, no one was getting tired  
Because of their excitement with the gong  
Whose sound seemed to fill the earth,  
360 And even seemed to reach the lowlands—  
The resonance of the gong.

And then they said,  
"Ah! Now the eating is over  
And we are all very tired,  
365 And the ceremony is also finished,  
So let's now go our separate ways  
Lest our houses now be full of cobwebs  
Since we have been here for a week,"  
So said again those parents-in-law.

370 And when that was done,  
The parents-in-law had an agreement,  
This Pati and Suyan,  
"Let us also go, we parents-in-law,

Ta nalpas metten ti piestan,  
375 Nga bagat dagiti annakta,  
Nga inta dinanggayan ti ay-ayatda."

Nagsisina kano manen dagiti tattao,  
Nagsasangpetdan, a,  
Gapu ta nalpas ti bagatda.

380 Kinuna kano manen ni Annusan,  
"Ania ngay nalpas ti besayta  
Awanen iti dakdakesna ta mapanak man  
Idiay baba ta innak bisitaen  
Ni gayyemko nga Delnagen  
385 Amangan ketdi no adda ket pasamakna  
Ta nakitak didiay inkalkalona nga baut  
Nga naglaklak-am ti dusa,"  
Kinuna met ni Annusan.

Idi kuan nga kastan idi nalpas  
390 Ti awaydan idiayen ket nagpababa  
Inna kinita ni Delnagen idiay kabanbantayan.

Idi napan ket, oh, nakutkuttongen,  
Di pay kano nga mangmanganen  
Agid-idda lattan idiay balayda  
395 Kasla tulangna laengen  
Ti binubongon ti kudilnan.

Kinuna kano metten ni Annusan nga lalawiganen  
Kalla inalamidna ti panagkappiada,  
"Ay, gayyemko nga Delnagen  
400 Kunak la no nalainganka  
A, ta kasla saan nga ikankano  
Daytoy bagim nga innak makitkita,"  
Ta kalla nga bukong kano met ngamin  
Ti bagina nga kalla ha'nna  
405 Nga ikaskaso ti baot.

Ngem agasem ti baot ngay nga linaklak-amna  
Ket nagsangapulo nga puted  
Didiay uway nga nangab-ablat ken isu  
Ngem isu metten ti insakitnan

Because the fiesta is over now,  
 375 The rituals for our children  
 For whom we came to join in their happiness."

All the people parted ways  
 And went back to their homes  
 Because their celebration was over.

380 And Annusan spoke again saying,  
 "Now that our festivity is finished,  
 There is nothing wrong if I go down  
 To the lowlands and pay a visit  
 To my friend there, Delnagen,  
 385 Lest some misfortune has befallen him  
 For I saw the beatings that he deserved  
 Which were his punishment."  
 Thus did Annusan speak.

So when he was through with work  
 390 In their farm, he went down  
 To see Delnagen in the mountainous region.

And when he saw him, oh! how thin he was!  
 He had not even eaten yet, it is said,  
 And he just lay down in their house,  
 395 Looking as if there was nothing but bones  
 Wrapped within his skin.

And the handsome Annusan spoke up  
 In order to make peace between them,  
 "O, my friend Delnagen,  
 400 I thought you were all right  
 For it seemed nothing could happen  
 To your body which I see."  
 For so large was his body  
 That it had seemed it could take  
 405 Beatings without much harm.

But, mind you, it had received so much beating,  
 For the cane had been cut in ten pieces,  
 The rattan that beat him up,  
 And that was what made him sick,

- 410 Ken maysa pay diay ladingitna  
Idiay balasang nga ay-ayatenna  
Nga ni Bangan iti dapnisan.

- Ket idi kan nga kastan  
Napan kano idiay sakduan  
415 Nagkaud iti danum kano piman  
Innakan dinigos nga inap-aplusan  
Ni gayyemna nga Delnagen kan gayam.

- Sananto ikalkalalagan  
Nga ibbabawi kano piman  
420 Daytay dusa nga linak-amnan  
Gapu ta duklosennanto met  
Didiay agsaysayaw pay laeng  
Didiay padana nga lalaki  
Agsa-oda ket dina met kayat  
425 Nga kasa-o ngem duklosenna latta  
Gapu ta dakkel nga tao  
Nga kasla bukong ti bagina  
Kasla agbagbagi nga nuang.

- Kalpasan nga naikalkalalagan  
430 Ken inap-aplusanna, imimbag ngalud  
Ni Delnagen iti nasakitna  
Ket kasta ngalud nagkappiada da Delnagen  
Ken Annusan Lumawig nga lawlawigan.

- Dayta man ti istolyana a gayam  
435 Daytay i-beska-an ken i-dapnisan  
Kasta met ditoy tengngana  
Nga kabanbantayan ditoy daga.  
Ket awan koma ti dakdakesna  
Daytoy nga innak panagis-istolya  
440 Ta pagragragsakan ditoy daga daytoy makunkuna.

- Sapay koma ta adda kasta kadatay' koma  
Nga mannakabalin koma ittata  
Ubbingko nga madamdama  
Nga agbibbiag ditoy daga  
445 Kasla ken ni Annusan nga makunkuna  
Nga no agpanggep ket nalaklaka.

410 In addition to his grief  
 Over the loss of the lady he loved—  
 Which is Bangan of the sunset land.

Because this was how it was,  
 He went to the water well  
 415 And fetched water from there  
 And went to sponge-bathe and massage  
 His friend Delnagen, it is told.

And afterwards he was praying  
 For the withdrawal, it is said, of all  
 420 The suffering he had received  
 For attempting to assault  
 The one who was merely dancing,  
 A man just like him;  
 They should talk things over, but he  
 425 Would not, and preferred to attack  
 Since he was a big man  
 Whose body was like a carabao's,  
 Like a big-bodied carabao.

After he finished praying  
 430 And giving him a massage, he recovered,  
 This Delnagen, from his illness,  
 And thus did Delnagen get reconciled  
 With the very handsome man Annusan Lumawig.

And that is the story really  
 435 Of the one from the East and the one from the West;  
 And may it likewise be in this midland,  
 This land of many mountains.  
 May there also be nothing bad  
 That comes from my telling you this story  
 440 Since it is to make us happy on this earth.

How nice it would be to have those among us  
 With such powers of enchantment today,  
 Among you, my young people who will later  
 Be living in this world  
 445 Like the famous Annusan  
 For whom every wish is easy to attain.

### Notes

1. For a backgrounder on Bago Literature, see Hornedo (1990, 199–255) and (1990, 358–68).

The term “Bago” also applies to cultural communities in the southern border La Union towns such as Pugo especially the outlying communities such as Cuenca and Saytan. Vibar-Basco (1956, 125–212) studies the southern Bago.

2. This stanza is an abbreviation. More details of the episode are given in the succeeding verses 61–67. The apparent confusion of time sequence is the result of the abbreviated version followed by a narration of the same event in greater detail. This often happens in Lakay Arsenio’s narration of other stories.

3. *Palaangan* (*paraangan* in Iloko) is rendered “porch” or “the entrance to the house or that part of the house yard where the ladder stands,” in Vanoverbergh (1958, 229). Saturnino Baltazar used “backyard,”; Prof. Felino Lorente of Saint Louis University proposed “yard.”

4. These two verses are explanatory insertions by the singer during recording. *Bagat* is the Bago analogue of the Igorot *caniao*.

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