DARANGEN

(Volume One)

in original Maranao verse, with English translation

Includes the First Three Books
of the Maranao Epic

1. Paganay Kiyandató O Diwata Ndaw Gibon sa Iliyan A Bembaran
(The First Ruler, or Diwata Ndaw Gibon of Iliyan a Bembaran)

2. Kambembaran (Story of Bembaran)

3. Kapmadali (Story of Madali)

presented by
The Folklore Division
University Research Center
Mindanao State University
Marawi City, Philippines

sponsored by
THE TOYOTA FOUNDATION
Na sa alongan imanto
na matorak so mongangen
na mainot peloha'an
so mata'o sa rantap'an.
Na alinen ta so mareg
a kasomba sa minalang
a rambayong panganonen
a morop sa inantara'.
Na di' ta den pangisaeden
i kalano a limbagan
ka di' ta bo' kasayan
so di' tankolo di' kasar
na di' tarantana' ilin.
Ka aya kapanotola
sa an a bantogan iyan
na pakapeamaanteken
ka an ta di' pembolonga
sa kapepaemenaga on.

Na kagiya sawangen ko
na saya ko den sawanga
sa paganay kiyandato
o Diwata Ndw Gibon.
Na bagerberan so tangkal
na dapen a lilang iyan
a bala' iyan ko tapar
a da'orog sa kandato.
Na da' pen kampong iyan
a kapaemantonan iyan
ka tawantawan si sangkad.

Ka paganay pagingedan
a Ililan a Bembaran
na pendansal pen so bael
ko dalidigan minombag.
Ka da' lalansay so kilat
ko rapeneten o palaw
sa Dasolimbag a Rogong
ko mawatan a marani
ka da pen a tominindeg

In these our dark and confused times
Well-informed men are hard to find,
For very few would know all things,
Good and bad or just anything.
Now let us change this condition:
As in darkening neutral pink
To make a pleasing violet
So let us hope to make a change.
Now we shall not use the old way
But create a mold for our day
Because it is hard to copy
The pure colors of old models;
And like stars glorified at night
So shall we present the stories
Of our ancestors, our great men,
In one straight continuous tale
So that no one will become tired
Or bored until the tale is told.

And now I shall commence my tale
Beginning with the time of the
Enthronement of the first ruler
Called Diwata Ndw Gibon.¹
His kingdom was one vacant space
Because he had as yet no wife,
No fair partner to grace his throne
And help him organize the place.
Nor were there any settlements,
No subjects to people a town
For this lord was indeed alone.

He was the very first person
In Ililan a Bembaran²
From where the waves dashed on the plain
Down to the foot of Mt. Minombag³
It was the time when no lightning
As yet had flashed over the hills
Of Dasolimbag so Rogong⁴
Whether on far or near places;
Nor was there any report heard
a randangan ko salinding.
Ka apay so tominindeg
na dá makaraw mbinentay
ko Layagen i Anonen.
A tominindeg a tonaw
a mimbatara' ko langit
a mimbatowa' da' rimbang
a dalendege mangangandag
sa lowakatan kalinan
ka pepaengandamen o taw
so Pinatola' a Tonong
a rapiyag o Ayonan
sa kiyapelombaya on.

Na miyarimbang saya pen
sa Kaibat a Kadaan
ka aya on mambo' dató
so Awilwil o Ndaw.
Na isa mambo' ka mareg
ka amay ka so Kadaan
na pamaloy da' matondog
ka bapiyaw da' mapeneng
ka reges da' ka' alangi
ka miyangondayá ko ig
ka tominindeg a kadeg
a giid magindagindag
ko miyakambala' bala'
da' maako sagadan
o maio' marangka ndaw
ka ipekaqita o taw
so Salindagaw Masingir
a rapiyag o Ayonan
so kiyapelombaya on
sa Kaibat a Kadaan.

Na miyarimbang saya pen
sa Gindolongan Marogong
ka aya on mambo' dato'
so Dalondong a Mimbantas
na isa mambo' ka mareg
ka amay ka so Minaga
na alongan romiyanti'
a miyangoramag ko ig
ka mimbatara' ko laod
ka da' maako sagadan
o man a marangka ndaw
a kandadamedag iyan
ka pepaengandamen o taw
so Maboklod a Romba'
a taladay o Pesimban
sa kiyapelombaya on
sa Gindolongan Marogong.

About other people elsewhere.
No happening had ever been
Talked about from up the heights or
Down to the Sea of Anonen.
There was no flourishing village
Where a hero may rise and whose
Deeds may be admired by his peers,
As well known as thunder is known
All throughout the lands in the east.
But no visitor ever came,
Scared of Pinatola a Tonong.
The much dreaded twin-spirit there
Of the Ayonan, born with him.

Another powerful place
Was Kaibat a Kadaan
Which boasted of a strong ruler,
King Awilwil o Ndaw.
This place was also set apart
From others, because Kadaan
Was guarded by a great tonong
Making it strong as a typhoon
Or like a swift current none can stop
Whose waters inundate the land;
Or like a huge pillar of fire
Whose flames sway high encircling and
Indeed securing the kingdom;
For no one dared pass this furnace,
As fiery as the noon-day sun,
Since people there were much afraid
Of Salindagaw Masingir
The twin-spirit of the ruler,
Given to him when he was born
In Kaibat a Kadaan

The same state of affairs was true
In Gindolongan Marogong
Ruled by a powerful datu,
Chief Dalondong a Mimbantas.
Another mighty ruler, who
Reigned over Minaga, a place
Resplendent as the sun above
Glancing brilliantly off the sea,
In control over land and sea
For no man dared to enter there,
Even one as bold as the sun
Since all men were afraid lest they
Encountered that huge crocodile
Called Maboklod a Romba.
The twin-spirit of the ruler,
Which was given to him at birth
In Gindolongan Marogong.
Let us pause at this point now.
In order to pick up again
The story of our first ruler.
Today the sun arose through clouds
Which came down and engulfed the heart
Of the great lord of Bembaran
Because he was still unmarried
Although a full-grown tree, of age,
He was not like Minodar or
His other close friend, Minalang.
Neither had he tried to approach
And begin to court in any
Of the kingdoms around the sea.
Neither did he have followers
Nor a council of advisers
For the kingdom had less than ten
Families and a few to guard
The truly small population.

It was thus proper at that time
To assemble in one small group
All of the prominent datus
And all the people of the place
At the royal torogan there
And bring them to a discussion
About the present situation
And the problem that now confronts
Their king, Diwata Ndaw Gibon.

Now came the respected leader,
The wise Dinaradiya Rogong.
One of the very first settlers
Of Iliyan a Bembaran.
He courteously turned to the left
And smilingly regarded all
The assembled chiefs in the room,
All the reigning noble datus.
In their lord's royal torogan.
He singled out and then looked straight
At the leader of the samar.
The sea people; addressing him
In front of all, he began thus:
"O leader of the samar, if
It be right and agreeable
With you to share us your knowledge,
May I be allowed to ask you,
For you would know, is there perhaps,
Somewhere, some country or people
Equal in beauty, wealth, power,
A land, one completely settled
And blessed with a lovely maid,
sa Iliyan a Bembaran.
Na a sa imanto aya
na irandangrandang iran
a kaapeaengendod iran
sa Iliyan a Bembaran
ka miyakowa so sinta’a
a piyalandong a amal.

To Iliyan a Bembaran.
And now as they were sailing back,
They were a very happy group
Coming home quite crowned with success
To Iliyan a Bembaran,
Bringing back home with their ruler
The triumphant end to his plan!

Na ina den a malanggay
a gid iran kambiday
sa kalodan a linawan
na mininayon siran den
ko tandiog a legawan
a rani’ay ko Bembaran
na mitareda’ so ganding
ko Rinamentaw Mapalaw
na go ontawar so ganding
sa dalano’an a inged
na di’m na pendamaren
a sengko’a ganding oto
ko daiday o ambaren
na go den pelimbo limbo
ko inareka’ a lemba’
na miyasokat on mambo’
ka aya kiyapantagan
a paeparonay sa gana’
so malinano’ liyamin
ko daiday o ambaren
ka mararampana’a dar
ka paras a pembolongen
na mapamenag iyan den
a sengko’a ganding oto
sa kalodan a linawan
a lagid o makabeto.

After such a very long trip
On their boat, sailing from afar
On the placid and pleasant sea,
They finally reached the harbor
Which now seemed to shine like glass,
Very near Bembaran.
They played the kolintang\(^5\)\(^2\) on board
The Rinamentaw Mapalaw
So loudly that the music came
Reverberating o’er the land,
Played well by their expert players,
The music wafted to the house
And entered all the windows where
Its sonorous echoes lingered
On richly decorated beds
Where the wisps of melody stayed
A while, because at that moment
There sat, rigidly listening,
The very beautiful princess,
At her place near the window where
Sorrow seemed to overwhelm her
As each soft stroke tore at her heart,
Penetrating her whole being,
Coming from the far kolintang
All the way from the open sea
Announcing what she dreaded most.

Na aya sengko’a ganding
ko Rinamentaw Mapalaw
na Barongis a Maayon
na aya ki’a lalag ko
na o da’ a rid’ sa dar
na idagesae’ so tapar
na parebaan so lemba’
na pamagowan sa kamot
ka magendod so misonor
a miyangambar sa lilang
ko mawatan a salinding
na go so mimbala’ bala’
ka tanan den pirogongan
so ndadadadog a tangkal.
Na da’ aken den ganaini
o da’ matangked a doyog
na da’ aken pen ganati

Clearly, the kolintang did sing
From Rinamentaw Mapalaw:
‘O Barongis a Maayon,\(^5\)\(^3\)
Listen to my wishes, if you
Are free and there is no hindrance,
I ask you, please, to clean the house,
Renew all the decorations
And sprinkle perfume everywhere,
Because I am coming with all
The ladies I have married who
Have come from far and near places
All around our territory,
Who were ready to leave their homes
From various powerful kingdoms.
I left no one of them behind
For I married each of them
And no one was allowed to stay
But all of them are here with me
In Iliyan a Bembaran.
And now, on this festive event,
I am feeling very happy
To be back home again because
There is nothing more to be done
As I am done with all my plans,
The goal I have pursued is gained.

After this message was received,
Alas, by the lovely princess,
She felt that every note they struck
On the kolintang struck her heart
And she shivered with fear as though
Caught between two claps of thunder,
Because what she had long dreaded
Had now happened and, paralyzed,
She could not think; her clothes were wet,
As though she were bathed in the dark,
Deep waters of some chilly sea
Drenched in her cold perspiration,
There she faced the terrible truth
That her husband had remarried,
Had come home with several wives.

Not long after she had these thoughts
She controlled her sorrow and laid
Aside her feelings, felt better
As she remembered the advice
Of her brother who had told her
That she should never go against
Her husband, forget her sorrows,
Do whatever he wants and try
Her best always to look for ways
To bring progress and improvement,
To give more fame to Bembaran.
Spurred by these encouraging thoughts
Which brought a change of mind and heart,
She suddenly stood up and fixed
Her dress, shaking it up and down
So that her fine green malong moved
Like ripples that made her forget
All the sad things that had happened,
So she could accept quite well
His marriage to all these ladies.

Giving her orders, she now said:
“O Barongis a Maayon;
Did you not hear the clear sweet sounds
Of music from the kolintang
From Rinamentaw Mapalaw,
Saying that my husband is back
In Iluyan a Bembaran
From his trip to look for new wives?
And the places where he married
Each one was a different town
But that he did not leave a place
Until he had won a new wife
Whom he did not leave in her home
But took along with him, back here
In Iluyan a Bembaran!
Now it is my desire that we
Should also play the kolintang,
So, I ask you to choose the best
Player, an expert who will play
To tell of our situation here
So that these wives will know us well!!!

After the request had been made
By Aya Paganay Ba’i.
There was made known a suggestion
By Andinganen Kilaman
Who turned courteously towards her
And said in a clear tone of voice:
‘My gracious lady, my mistress,
You have to play the kolintang,
Rrasay will beat the agong while
Bimban will beat the babendir
And Sansara the debakan
I shall play the pandang
With my own beloved partner;
Our group will answer that song now
From Rinamentaw Mapalaw.’

Not long after, the ensemble
Performed, and their own kolintang played
By Aya Paganay Ba’i.
And as the music swelled it rose
From the royal torogan where
Its notes arose masterfully
Vibrant, sonorous, echoing
Throughout the village to the mouth
Of the river down to the sea
Where it was brought to every gulf
And rode on each new wave dashing
Ashore, and carried windward it
Climbed up to the banners atop
The Rinamentaw Mapalaw.
This was what the kolintang sang
Within the royal torogan:
‘Do as you plan, my dear husband,
Who has remarried, for I do
Source & Owner of **Kirim:**

Hadji Lawa Cali  
Tugaya, Lanao del Sur

Translators:

H. Lawa Cali  
Roselaine P. Hadji Asis  
Macaantal Amairadia

English Translation in Verse:

Sr. Ma. Delia Coronel, icm

Editors:

Maranao text:

Batua Al-Macaraya  
Engracia Macaraya

English text:

Raymond Llorca

Artist:

Henry Cocos

*Left to right:* B. Macaraya, M. Saber, H. Lawa Cali, M.D. Coronel, R. Asis, E. Macaraya
Much movement as the pleasant voice
Of Walain sa Komara 16
Named Bolentay Mangórandá
Was heard calling her attendants:
“O my dear young girls, please listen,
Especially you, Sarandang,
Get ready, all of you, to go
Down and take along with you all
Our precious vessels, all what is
Needed to escort our princess
For our Ayonan has ordered,
King Lomiyagenggen Barat, 18
That all of us must go down to
The clean and wide playground for the
Sun has already climbed high and
The king wants to be sure that we
Will not be the object of jokes
Neither of the diwata in
The water nor of the tonong.”
Then the Ayonan now ordered
Dangaroganday Kilat 19 to:
“Call at once the attention of
All our numerous servants to
Get ready to begin beating
All the musical instruments
In Bogabong a Komara
To announce that to the playground
Comes Paramata Gandingan.”
Let us pause for a while here and
Listen for now is heard all the
Numerous servants together
With a big number of people,
Who were all beating, at the same time,
All the agongs in straight, neat, rows
Filling with thunderous sounds all
Of Bogabong a Komara
While the loud firing of cannons
Rent the air and spread to the sky.

Let us now shift our attention
And look at the royal ladies,
All magnificently dressed, who
Had gone down, all of them, themselves,
To the resplendent torogan 20
And crossing the big hall went down,
They, themselves, went down the carved stairs
To the huge clean-as-glass playground.
The first ones to lead the long line
Were the young maids and attendants
a pelawandá magatos
a ipepaegapir iran
so gonday a kaorayan
a darambá o liyamin.
Na maganóy sa melimbay
so panaman o Makaog
a maonduoda raga
na go ron bó makatondog
so manga olan payongan
a pendarambá ko olan.
Na maori sa lomimbay
so Pinarasi Damedag
a Pesaeribolan Mayag
sa Bogabong a Komara
na sapoló so misaeap
a mimbagobay a pandang
a pepaegapir iran
sa magamanas a oray.
Na go ron bó makatondog
so palawandá sapoló
a palanang damadakar
sa ringka ringka masaleg.
Na makasagobay ron
so palawandá siyaw poló
a tanan tomaratapenay
sa sirigamgam a oray
a man a pekaekabembar
a maramanay pesaelag
so pamalomppong o sangkad
o sirigamgam a oray.
Na merimbang so sinalong
a magó apoy darimbang
a darambá o liyamin
na dowa so siripowan
a omenag dalomabi
a katic o pinidayá.
Na go ped a ranon ta on
a di ta reseben a dar
so diyanal inirendkag
ko malinanó liyamin
a di bó den pira sa’ap.
Na piya ka perimbangan
sa oborobor a baning
na go iran bó payongi
sa sapoló magadapá
a diyanal a mitoos
a sayasaya den tanan
pekaebangkawat ilin
a ba warma warma tanan.

Numbering more than a hundred,
All carrying huge fans which seemed
To be made of gold which they moved
As they escorted their princess.
Following this group, there came next
The young sister of Makaog,
A lovely graceful lady who
Was the first one to walk, leading
The group of the royal ladies
Who were escorting the princess.
Immediately behind them came
The Pinarasi Damedag
The Pesaeribolan Mayag
Of Bogabong a Komara
Who was followed by ten rows of
Young maidservants, each one busy
At fanning and refreshing their
Lovely princess with golden fans.
Next came an attractive group, made
Up of more than ten maidservants
Each one proudly bearing the big,
Precious, shining betelnut set.
The next to appear on the scene
Was a group of more than ninety
Servants, each one bearing in her
Hands a splendid gold container
Whose brightness seemed to spread around
Like perfume from a fragrant plant,
Whose top was tasseled with gold coins
On each splendid gold container.

Next, a pair of crystal vessels
Fiery red in color, matchless,
Part of the princess’ possessions.
Two transparent jars, made of the
Highest quality, peerless, owned
By the reigning queen of the land.
Another eye-catching object
Was the amazing number of
Flags used to screen and give cover
For the magnificent princess
Being held in several rows.
On each side was seen a pair of
Umbrellas with yellow pompons
Carried high above her head, in
Number, ten in all, the mark of
Authentic royal ancestry,
Made of pure thin silk, each
Of which brought out clearly all the
Different colors found there.
Na lengen an to roo den
ka tanan den miyasaed
so rema remâ i olan
pandaara kaadilan.
Na aya lad o liyamin,
na go pangorandâ ilin
na da a rangka o ndaw,
ka diyaraag a lanô
o malanô pinidayâ
ka go man a pekirekaw
so di alon ang a sirig
na di paramata intan,
na di salindaw i olan
na di pangoramag a ig
ka lamokan pen si olan
a ikalima a talin
a go pen ngganat ko palaw,
ka dá den a daway niyan.
Na san ta pemau andoga
ko arog a lawas iyan,
na man den a pirararik
a longkay an o malanô
ka man den a sasandigen
a kiyaren pipaerasan
ka malobay a maimpit
a piyangatatangkaan
a arog a lawas iyan.
Na go ped a bantog iyan
a katabilang a beneng
ka man den a sasandigen
a saribolan o olan
a di man a idedesaé
a bantang a kiray niyan
ka miyagayon sa ropa
so royoon pakaranon
a go so saleg o kiray
ka tanan kaeranon so taw
o lilingay so liyamin
ka pakabatalang sa dar.
So taman a rombâ iyan
ka lebi pen a marandang
so kaandaondâ melad
ka taw a karawir iyan
ka dá den a daway niyan
ka di keliwatan sa dar
ka maliliang ta on den.

Now let us stop here as the long
Parade ended which showed all
The rich ornaments that came with
The entourage of the princess.
As for this beautiful princess,
Her brightness seemed to make the sun
Lose some of its rays, so charmed was
It by the magnificent looks
Of this lovely glorious princess
Because her radiant beauty was
Neither brightness of sun nor star,
Nor the brilliance of diamonds
Nor effulgence of a full moon
Brightly reflected on the sea
For even covered, this princess shines
Brighter than the fifth night of the
Full moon high above the mountains,
For she is without a blemish.
And if we were to focus our
Attention on her body, it
Was well-proportioned and shapely
With slender arms and legs, a
Well formed body as attractive
As a beautiful hanging shield,
Not so slender but regular
In build, an ideal figure
With perfect physical features.
She was envied for the beauty
Of her forehead which was nicely
Curved and rounded just like the
New moon when seen against the sky;
Looking neat and well-trimmed was the
Way her eyebrows were shaped which served
To enhance the loveliness of
Her own incomparable eyes
For these shining well-shaped eyebrows
Were attractive, captivating
So that a glance from the princess
Was enough to capture all hearts.
But above all these attractive
Features, she was most admired for
The grace found in all her movements,
Highly influential, without
A single imperfection, one
Who could never be forgotten
For she brought joy and cheer to all.
Na sa alon gan imanto
na di ta den pepa kaneg
ko pesa ronay a lalis
ko langon a garing iyan
a go so madakel a taw.
Na ba ari pepa endod
na mininayon siran den
ko inadil a osoran
a pakaperimbang an
sa inadil a korsi
a piyamaramataan
sa pimbarang a montiyá
na tanan kaboborod an
inigangan a pandí
a ini'ayaw sa poró
na go ayaw a pekalat
so dakot on a bolawan,
a miyakaonit on pen
a pekaebangkawat ilín
a dalano' an a inged
ko salindaw ron a pandí
ka ba ngka aloyan misaé
i aya paekiderangan
ko totoo a liyamin
a go so langon ba'i
a tanan malanó a taw
a pendarambá ki olan.

On this brightly illuminated day
We cannot hear anything due
To the thunderous shouts and cheers
From the bride's friends and relatives
And the huge crowd of people there.
It did not take long before the
Bridal party reached the richly
Decorated stage on which had
Been prepared, side by side, a pair
Of elaborately carved thrones
Embellished with jewels, inlaid
With precious stones, rare and various
Around which were erected a
Big number of flags and buntings
Flying gaily in the wind, each
One dazzling the eyes from all the
Gold embroidered on each bright flag
Providing the community
Flashes of glowing bright colors,
Making the whole town shine brightly
From the resplendent show of flags
Which at once pointed out to all
That this place was the home of the
Highest reigning princess of the
Land, who, together with her
Ladies were all of noble birth, the
Entourage of the fair princess.

Let us move the scene and look for
A while at another person,
The Inayonan o Kampong
Of Bogabong a Komara
Who was at that precise moment
Calling to him his assistant
Disomimba a Barat²³ to
Whom he gave his orders, saying:
"Will you come here to me, by my
Side, for there is something we have
To talk about, a grave matter."
Let us focus our attention
On Disomimba sa Barat
Who, upon hearing his name, moved
At once and rising from his seat
He made his way directly to
The Ayonan of Komara
And he sat down, there near the place
Where the Ayonan was seated,
And facing him, formally asked: