

The Practice of Parental Engagement and Early Marriage

The song Gatap Ku Dinwadinwa reflects the practice of early marriage in the olden days. The man has the liberty to choose anyone he likes, regardless of the age gap. In this song, the man chooses a very young lady, but she shows her dislike towards him by crying. Sometimes, if the man loves a girl, he must patiently wait for the right time, and so he laments his situation.

“GATAP KU’Y DINWA DINWA”

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Gatap ku’y dinwa dinwa

I have two little blankets

Inbâh bâh-il kud Awa

I brought it with me in Awa

Kangkuy nak mangahawa	I want to get married
Wada ngu men û - ungnga	I found one but she's too young
Guwiten ku't ka luwa	She cried when I touched her
In nâhnu nahmungun ya	Oh, what shall I do with her
Ni pantanudan ta	For I want to have children
Madunut I kaluhud	The house post will be rotten
Ey agkita mantanud	But we can't be together
Madunut I lablabeng	The lablabeng plant will wither
Ey agkita man habeng	But we can't be together
Madunut I annatil	The annatil wood will be rotten
Ey agkita man âppil	But we can't be on our own

