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Alim Epic

IFUGAO, IFUGAO PROVINCE, NORTHERN LUZON ISLAND, NORTHERN PHILIPPINES. *The Alim is chanted during the closing days of an uyauy feast, a public prestige feast of the rich. It is practiced only by a ranking mumbaki (ritual specialist) belonging to the kadangyan (elite) class.*

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Always embedded within a ritual, the epic chant, Alim, is associated with a night-long celebration with the drinking of rice wine fermented in stoneware jars.

THE ALIM EPIC is a series of thirty-three stories, thirty-two of which come in pairs (male and female). The thirty-third is chanted separately. The Alim is usually chanted during rites of the *imbayah*, *dinupdup* and *kinoh-ag*. The *imbayah* is a prestige feast that lasts for about a month. During the feast, the Alim is done in full and calls for the sacrifice of eight pigs. It is done to cure illness, but principally, it is a thanksgiving feast. The *dinupdup* differs in that only six pigs are sacrificed while in the *kinoh-ag*, only half of the Alim is chanted with four pigs sacrificed. When chanted continuously, the Alim takes 48 hours. This is done in two parts. The first twenty-seven stories are done from the sunset of the first day to noon of the next

day. The last five stories are recited during the cooking of the sacrificial pigs on the third day.

The Alim starts with two *mumbakis* standing side by side below the doorway of the house of the celebrant. Each *mumbaki* swings bundles of rice while chanting (*danim*). The chanting begins with an invocation by the principal *mumbaki* who is inside the house. A group of *mumbakis* responds. The invocation includes the story of *Punholdayan*, the deity of harvest. It continues with other stories that are chanted through the night.

JTP

Story topics of Alim

- Ummangal ad Kabunyan / Bugan an Nun-in-Ummangal
- Kabbigat an Bale Nay Nunggawa / Bugan in Kabbigat
- Kabbigat an e Mun-unah ad Taep / Bugan in-Kabbigat an Nunlongyah ad Lengya
- Dullugen / Bugan in Dullugen
- Wakkaten / Bugan in-Wakkaten
- Hummigay / Bugan in-Hummigay
- Kabbigat an Nun-alang / Bugan in-Kabbigat
- Ummangal an Bimmihoy Tutut da an Bimmihoy Dayyemdem da / Bugan in-Ummangal
- Kabbigat an Nunbaboy / Bugan in-Kabbigat an Nun-idang
- Bedbeden / Bugan in-Bedbeden
- Ulluten / Bugan in-Ulluten
- Akkuwen / Bugan in-Akkuwen
- Kabbigat an Mundilag di Hubong na / Bugan an in-Kabbigat
- Kalluben / Bugan in-Kalluben
- Kabbigat an Immuhul di baboy na / Bugan in-Kabbigat an Immuhul Manok na
- Kappangdan / Bugan in-Kappangdan
- Bugan an ena In-nguhu-nguhhuwan nan Baboy