

Life Cycle Rites

KALINGA, KALINGA PROVINCE, NORTHERN LUZON ISLAND, NORTHERN PHILIPPINES. *The people of different municipalities in Kalinga province are sometimes at variance with respect to their rites and the way these are carried out or even named. Kalinga culture is not one monolithic culture but contains expressions relevant to the prevailing social and environmental pressures and the manner whereby realities are articulated in actual behavior. Following is a comparison between the municipalities of Lubuagan in southern Kalinga and Poswoy in northern Kalinga:*



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High in the Awidon Mesa Plateau of the Cordillera Mountains, Kalinga women in a line dance are charged by three male dancers. Leftmost are tongatong (percussion instrument) players providing the feet-tingling rhythm.

SOUTHERN KALINGA

Makobin

Ceremony to induce pregnancy.

No rites for ill, pregnant woman.

Nothing comparable.

Manilom

Done when wife becomes pregnant to placate the spirits.

Ngilin

Restrictions placed on members of a household.

Kontad

Series of ceremonies continuing for one to one and a half years.

When a child is about four months old, the father's relatives give the child a special gift, usually a bead necklace. (No name for the ceremony).

Omoy Pasibit

When a child first utters the name of a relative, the child is taken to visit the relative's home.

Mamilok

First time a baby is taken to the father's parents or relatives. Occasion for a feast.

Gabbok

Ceremony for well-being.

Banat

(a gift) or *mang-abalayan* – literally “becoming in laws” – a marriage arrangement or contract made soon after birth.

Circumcision

At about age seven.

Maloglogaw

Bride service is contracted when a boy is between 10-12 years old.

Posipos

General curing rites.

NORTHERN KALINGA

No ceremony.

Yabyab

Rites for a pregnant woman.

Sabblay

Rites if both husband and wife become ill.

Nothing comparable.

Ngilin

Restrictions placed on members of a household.

Kontad

Series of ceremonies continuing for one to one and a half years.

Kawol

Simple teething ceremony, when the child is about four months old.

Omapo

First formal visit to a near bilateral relative made by child and parents.

Balon di babat

First time a baby is taken to the father's parents or relatives. Occasion for a feast.

Gabbok

Curing rites done four or five months after birth if the child becomes ill.

Banat

(a gift) or *mang-abalayan* – literally “becoming in laws” – a marriage arrangement or contract made soon after birth.

None.

Magngotogaw

Bride service is contracted when a boy is between 10-12 years old.

Dawak

General curing rites.