**Baya’o Chant**

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THE BESAO PEOPLE communicate with the dead through the *baya’o* as a tribute to a dead person whose body lies in state. It can also be chanting a story with a moral lesson for all those in attendance in the wake. The *baya’o* is also be chanting a story with a moral lesson as a tribute to a dead person whose body lies in state. It can be communicated with the spirit of the dead through the *baya’o*. Speaking is your humble (traditional healer) Golingayen Gampol, on June 21, 1999. Gampol died in Baguio, on June 21, 1999. Gampol died in Baguio.

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**Kankanay, Mountain Province, Northern Luzon Island, Northern Philippines.** The Kankanay of Besao municipality in Mountain Province usually chants this dirge during wakes. The Kankanay of Besao municipality in Mountain Province usually chants this dirge during wakes.

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(This story is an advice to everybody. Once, there was a couple with four children. The father worked hard day and night not minding to change even his g-string. The couple worked for the children’s education until they finished their studies. Unfortunately, their mother died without the children seeing her. Later, the father got sick and requested his children to come home. When the children arrived, the father was so weak that he had to close his eyes. The elder of the four said that they would go and bury their father. The second to the eldest asked if they would bring their dead father for a requiem mass but the others answered, no. The next child asked if they will tell their neighbors but again they answered, no, for they were too much in a hurry to leave. After all that was said, surprisingly, the father opened his eyes and said, “Give me my shoes and my clothes. You may leave me and let me go to my grave. Is that what I deserve after sending you to school?” Such story is so touching. It is related to provide a lesson to everyone especially the younger generation. What matters most are our values especially as Igorot. Our lowland brothers look down on us but let us prove that we can be at par with them. Let’s be proud of our parents even if they are soiled. We would not be here on earth without them. Let us respect and care for them. Let’s think of attending to their needs. This is a part of our culture that should be preserved. It does not contradict God’s commandment indeed).