

# Hamboki'an

**KALANGUYA IFUGAO, IFUGAO PROVINCE, NORTHERN LUZON ISLAND, NORTHERN PHILIPPINES.** *The Kalanguya, a third smaller Ifugao subgroup in Ifugao province, is actually culturally similar to the Ikalahan found in the mid-mountain oak forest of Nueva Vizcaya province. Like most ethno-linguistic groups in the Philippines, they practice a meat-sharing system among kin groups.*

THE KALANGUYA calls their meat distribution system *hamboki'an* – from *boki*, meat. This is equivalent to a circumscribed community defined by the extent of meat distribution during rituals. In the course of animal sacrifices, after the inspection of the bile sac, the blood is scooped out of the abdominal cavity for use in blood sausages. The carcass is laid out on a matting (grass or leaves) where it is butchered. The tail of the pig is given to smaller children to play with. The feet are also given to them to roast in the fire. The portions of the meat for eating during the celebration are cut into large pieces and boiled with the blood sausages. These will be cut up into smaller pieces after cooking.

Specific portions of the meat are set aside for meat distribution within the community. These portions are called *bokboki* and are cut up into small pieces at the close of the butchering process, one portion for each household in what is considered the community, whether or not there is a representative present.

Some meat are set aside for visitors. These portions (*balwa*) are not cut up for individual households. They are taken back to the home communities of the visitors for distribution there. A clear distinction is made about the “in group” of the community and the visitors because they receive different specified portions of the meat. Half of the neck is set aside for the parents of the various daughters-in-law, or sons-in-law. These are sent to their homes. Another special portion is set aside for the *mabaki* (ritual specialist) who presided over the ritual.

When an individual transfers communities, he must first sponsor a *mangleng* ritual in his home community and another in the new community. After these are concluded, he will be included in the meat-sharing system in the new community and removed from the previous one.

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