

# CUSTOMS & TRADITIONS

## Province of Ilocos Sur

### **ALBASIA (MEDIATOR)**

It was the custom of young ladies before to gather and sleep together in one house, usually in the house of a spinster or widow who is living alone. For this reason, it became natural for men to flow into the house of the widow to court the ladies. In cases where a young man falls in love with one householder. The old lady would then become mediator between the young man and young lady, and any response from the young lady shall be conveyed through her (the old lady).

### **MAIKASING/MAITANI (Parental marriage)**

This method of marriage is initiated through the agreement of the parents of both the young lady and the young man. This is usually practiced by well-to-do families in order to maintain the status quo of their clan and to preserve the families' treasured possessions like fields, houses, antique furniture and jewelry.

### **DAWAK (Grand Wedding Celebration)**

Dawak is an ethnic way of celebrating marriage and is still practiced not so long ago. Today, the Bagos do not practice anymore because it's too expensive.

### **PATIAM/ RAMBAK (Common Wedding Celebration)**

Also known as Boda. It is to this celebration that all relatives, as far as they are remembered, of the contracting parties are invited. The adjoining barangays, too, are invited. In this occasion, there is much feasting because it starts from the eve of the previous and five cavans of rice are served to the people.

### **BEGNAS**

The Begnas is grand festival of the natives that lasts for five or seven days. The main purpose is to worship Kabunian. The Begnas is also performed to thank him for his blessings, to beseech his mighty hands for a continuing support to their means of livelihood and to ask him to drive away the bad spirits who are causing anxieties or misfortunes.

## **BURIAL PRACTICES AND BELIEFS**

### **LEGLEG**

A ceremony, which is performed before the rites of *damaan* (mourning rites).

This is one of the ceremonial requisites to qualify the soul to be accepted in the realm of his departed ancestors.

### **THE SAPANGOT**

This ceremony performed after the burial when the people who went to ceremony to bury the dead arrive at the bereaved family. Those who went to the cemetery who did not wash his hands in this ceremony is considered filthy and defiled from his home.

### **PAMUMPUNAN**

After the sapangot ceremony follows the pamumpunan (cleansing ceremony). There are several kinds of pamupunan. Some have the tradition of just burning rice straw in the yard and the pamumounagn is done.

### **OP-OPPOG AND PINALABI**

A few days after the burial of the dead the op-opog and the pinalabi are performed. It is a departure ceremony. It is believe that when this ceremony is not performed; the forefather who had gone ahead will not receive the soul of the dead.

### **DAMAAN**

The practice of *damaan* (vigil) in this place is different from those practiced in other municipalities. The relatives, friends and sympathizers from different places gather at the home of the bereaved family and by one or by twos cry reciting or chanting their sorrow in a mournful tune.

Ref.: <http://www.santa.gov.ph/ilocosur/cmdelpilarcustoms.html>