

# Atamolai

## A short story in the Kulisusu language of Southeast Sulawesi, Indonesia

This short expository text explains some things about the 'hidden people,' a race of invisible people who inhabit the same world as humans.

	<b>Kulisusu</b>	<b>Indonesian</b>	<b>English</b>
1	Cula-culano Atamolai.	Cerita orang bunian.	The story of the hidden people.
2	Atamolai, io mia ngkana ingkita.	Orang bunian adalah orang semacam kita.	The hidden people are people like us.
3	Po'iahando, nahina iteto'ori.	Tempat tinggalnya tidak diketahui.	No one knows where they live.
4	Tempo-tempo, miahako a'iso tobaawaako'inda i tahi.	Kadang-kadang kita ketemuan orang itu di laut.	Sometimes we encounter them on the sea.
5	Tempo-tempo, mia hako a'iso tobaawaako'inda i wita.	Kadang-kadang kita ketemuan orang itu di daratan.	Sometimes we encounter them on the land.
6	Karajaando, pokana te ingkita: ndopepombulaa, ndohela i tana bara.	Pekerjaannya sama dengan kita: mereka berkebun, mereka berlayar di bagian barat.	Their work is the same as ours: they have gardens, they sail in the western lands.
7	Io bangkando, kadio ngineahako padewaka.	Perahunya hanya yang disebut padewakang.	Their boats are only those called padewakang.
8	Kendo bansule i tana bara, uleano bangkando imantondu'ako kadio bara.	Kalau mereka pulang dari bagian barat, perahunya sarat dengan muatan barang-barang.	When they return from the western lands, their boats are heavy-laden with cargo.
9	Bara-bara a'iso, sadia ndocia duka te ngineahako Wanae.	Barang-barang itu sering diberikan kepada yang disebut Wanae.	Those goods are often given to the one called Wanae

10	Po'iahano Wanae, dai gusi i Dongkala.	Tempat tinggalnya Wanae ada di guci di Dongkala.	The place where Wanae lives is in a water jar at Dongkala.
11	Ngineahako atamolaihako a'iso, ndopekato'ori te Wanae.	Orang bunian itu baku tahu dengan Wanae.	The ones called the hidden people and Wanae know each other.
12	Ngkaa-ngkaa'ai, ngineahako atamolai, i witano Kolinsusu a'ai, i'ompole to'u-to'u.	Sekarang ini, orang Bunian banyak sekali di tanah Kulisusu ini.	Today there are a great many hidden people in the land of Kulisusu.

### Notes concerning the text

1. *atamolai*, from *ata*, currently 'slave' (< PMP \*aRta 'outsiders, alien people'), compounded with *molai* 'flee.' The author explained this as meaning 'the ones who left us.'

6. *tana bara* 'the western lands' includes for example Baubau, Makassar and Singapore.

7. A *padewakang* is a type of large boat with a rectangular sail, much used in southern and southeastern Sulawesi for trade and warfare until the beginning of the 20th century.

"Paduakans are native vessels having a single mast in the form of a tripod, and carrying a large lateen sail of mat. They are from twenty to fifty tons burden, and of great beam, with lofty sides, and little hold in the water. They are steered by two long rudders, which are lifted up when the vessel is moored or passing through a shallow." (Horace St. John, *The Indian Archipelago: Its history and present state*, vol. 2. London: Longman, 1853, p. 184)

9. Wanae, who this personage is requires further investigation.

10. Dongkala, possibly the Dongkala located on the eastern side of Buton Island (5° 30' 37" S 122° 52' 20" E) near Pasar Wajo.

### Information about the text

Written and read by La Bura, February 1996.

Recorded by David Mead on magnetic cassette tape, 27 February 1996; digitized September 2002.

Translated into Indonesian by La Bura, February 1996.

Translated into English by David Mead, February 1996.

The transcription given here reflects the spoken version and uses updated orthographic conventions.

### **Information about the author**

La Bura (1923–2003), a native speaker of Kulisusu, was born in Bone Rombo village, northeastern Buton Island, southeastern Sulawesi. At the time this text was written and recorded, La Bura was 72 years old.



< La Bura, February 2002

## Text as originally written

Cula<sup>2</sup> no atamolax mianglcana lngkita,  
 polahando, nahina ~~te~~ ytetokri tumpo<sup>2</sup>,  
 miahako aay toba awa ytahi //  
 tempo<sup>2</sup> miahako aay, toba awa wita //  
 Karajando, pokana te lngkita, ndopepom  
 bula, ndohela, xtana Bara/Bangkando,  
 kadio pade waka // kendo loansule yta  
 wa Bara, uleano Bangkando, ymanto  
 ndu ako kady Bara/bara<sup>2</sup> aiso, sadia,  
 ndo Cia dulca tenginahako wa Nae //  
 polahano wa Nae day Gusi Dongkala //  
 atamolay hako aiso, ndopekatokri,  
 te wa Nae // ngka<sup>2</sup> aay imatemo  
 atamolay ywitano Kalisusu ompole  
 tou<sup>2</sup> //

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