The *Chokochok* Prayer (Text K04)

1. San sin-akhi ay ipokhaw, inanapchas incharewcha.  
   1. The two brothers hunted for something to sustain them.

2. Mamifiligcha, ma-icharcharchas natimochan nan chanom.  
   2. They climbed the mountains, and reached the gathering of the waters.

3. Chanena ya pad-anança nan tapan nan kar-atab² ay pakhey, nan owak nan tongango,³ nan okit nan agkhong.  
   3. Suddenly they came upon the husks of newly harvested rice, the sheaths of corn and the shells of field snails.

   4. "Who harvested that? Let's go and trace him."

5. Omalichad Faliwen.  
   5. They came to Faliwen.

6. Omalichas nan iFaliwen, "Fakenakis ninlatab."  
   6. They came to the people of Faliwen, "It wasn't us who harvested."

7. Omalichad Khawa.  
   7. They came to Khawa.

8. Ifakhachas nan iKhawa, "Fakenakis nas nan ninlatab."  
   8. They asked the people of Khawa, "It wasn't us here who harvested."

   9. They came to Paling.

10. Ifakhachas nan iPaling, "Fakenakis ninlatab."  
    10. They asked the people of Paling, "It wasn't us who harvested."

11. Osa-orencha nan Cheka-ar, tay insinicha-or⁴ nan Makonanoy.  
    11. They followed a stream to Cheka-ar, because they visited with the people of Makonanoy.

12. "Into nan marpos ili ay Likhey?"  
    12. "Where is the one (stream) starting from the village of Likhey?"

13. "Nan pet marpos ilis Lichem. Na-ay folingling nan mangil-ilpowanas nan ta-  
    13. "It is the one starting from the village of Lichem. This clear water is what is
pan nan pakhey, nan okit nan agkhong, ya nan owak nan tongango, ya nan okis nan itab."

14. Omey Chad Langtakhan.

14. They went to Langtakhan.


15. They looked ahead to Pak-et, it just became quiet.


16. He climbed up to Chakchochog, and went straight on to Atiwerwer.

17. Osochongana nan Alimegmekhan si nan Yommad.

17. He looked down at the descendants of Alimegmeg at Yommad.

18. Kankanana nan iYommad, "Faken nan marpos Lichem, che-ey ay Fottiwtew nan mangil-ilpowanas nan tapan nan pakhey ay kar-atab, okis nan tongango, ya nan okis nan itab."

18. The people of Yommad were saying, "It's not the stream that comes from Lichem, it is the Fottiwtew stream that is bringing down the husks of newly harvested rice, sheaths of corn, and shells of beans."


19. They climbed to Khiwang.

20. "Nan pet pay iLitangfan nan ninlatab."

20. "So it's the Litangfan people who have started harvesting."


21. They said the chokochok prayer.

22. Kanencha nan kar-atab ay pakhey ya achicha kayawayawan.  

22. They eat the newly harvested rice and they don't get sick from it.

23. Okitancha nan agkhong ya achicha kachawes.

23. They shell the field snails and do not get sick.

24. Kanencha nan tongangocha ya achicha kayawayawan.

24. They eat their corn and don't get sick.

25. Pakchermis nan Paliwak ay kegser ya sikar, somikar nan latafenmis na, ya inkekegserkami ay mangan si nan linatab ya mangokit si nan agkhong.

25. Our pakcher spirit at Paliwak who is resistant and gives increase, may what we harvest here increase, and may we who eat the harvested rice and the shelled field snails be resistant.


26. Our pakcher spirit at Fa-ang who is
intetengnenkami, tay na-ay ay iyar- arawagko sik-as nan chokochok.

27. Achikami kayawyawan si nan ka nenmi, ay kar-atafay pakhey, ya nan oki tanmi ay agkhong, ya nan tongango. cool, may we be cool, because here we are mentioning you in the chokochok.

27. May we not get sick from what we eat, the newly harvested rice, the snails we shell, and the corn.

NOTES

1 This prayer is said during a ceremony of the same name which is performed on the first day of harvest, when a woman from each family goes to the fields to collect a bundle of unripe rice (also called chokochok). It is made that night into a confectionary called cho-om, this ritual prayer is said over it and it is then hung in the house until the following morning when it can be eaten by children. The purpose of the ceremony is to prevent a sickness called machawes which can affect people who eat newly harvested rice. It is also said during the ketketad ceremonies which are part of the fayas marriage ceremonies, following the removal of the fansar structures from which the heads of sacrificed water buffalo are hung (see Text C11).

2 latab ‘the first rice harvested after chokochok’

3 The term presently used for corn in Guina-ang is tongnga.

4 asicha-or ‘to visit each other’

5 iyawyaw ‘to wash clean by pushing in and out of water’, mayawyawan ‘to have a washed out feeling, following an attack of diarrhoea’