

**Have you heard?**

# FOLK WISDOM

**Translated by  
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## 1. Proverbs

We entreat the coconut  
Not to reach so high  
If a beetle should burrow  
The whole pith will rot.  
(*Magdalita ang niyog  
Huwag magpapakatayog  
Kung ang uwang ang umok-ok  
Mauubos pati ubod.*)

When there was no gold to guard  
He stood haughty and proud  
When it came his way  
He stooped to obey.  
(*Ng walang biring ginto  
Doon nagpapalalo  
Ng magkaginto-ginto  
Doon na nga sumuko.*)

He who accepts the wound  
Will not suffer the pain  
But to him who does not  
A mere scratch will canker.  
(*Ang sugat ay kung tinatanggap  
Di daramdamin ang antak  
Ang aayaw at di payag  
Galos lamang magnanaknak.*)

Be steady, Bar,  
Before the coming tide  
I'm just a little creeper  
And around you I'll cling.  
(*Katitibay ka tulos  
Sakaling datnan ng agos  
Ako'y mumunting lumot  
Sa iyo'y pupulupot.*)

Dinghy, adrift on the sea,  
Blown back by the northwesterly  
Tossed forward by the southerly.  
(*Lunday, kung aanod-anod,  
Pinihaw ng balaklaot  
Kaya lamang napanulot  
Ng umihip yaring timog.*)

There are robust men  
Who are noble when in the saddle  
And like aetas in battle.  
(*May lalaking masigla  
Ginoo kung tumugpa  
Aeta kung sumalunga.*)

When the plate is clean  
And the flagon empty  
Love is gone.  
(*Kung ang kilawin ay masaid  
At ang toyttoy ay matiti  
Tapus ang pagkakaibig.*)

There are big things light and  
soft

And small things you can't  
hold aloft.

(*May malaking halaghag  
May munting di mabuhat.*)

You may be famous as a  
millionaire

But to yourself a pauper.  
(*Mayaman ka man sa sabi  
Dukha ka rin sa sarili.*)

Spend your blessings now,  
Tomorrow you are gaping.  
(*Ubos-ubos biyaya  
Bukas nakatunganga.*)

The sampaguita turned red  
And the gumamela white!  
(*Nula ang sampaga  
Nuti ang gumamela!*)

The tender sore  
And the ripening herb.  
(*Nagnumurang tibatib  
Nagmamatang kulit.*)

How lovable when absent  
How loathesome when present.  
(*Sinisinta kung wala  
Ng makita'y isinumpa.*)

## 2. Riddles

Fair lady, so close  
To the lilac.  
Toasted Rice

(*Maputing dalaga  
Nagtatalik sa lila.*)  
(*Binusang Bigas*)

I am black, I am ebony,  
The gentleman loves me.  
Quality

(*Itim ako, itim ako,  
Mahal ako ng ginoo.*)  
(*Uri*)

Whether left or dexter  
The tail will take care.  
Rudder

(*Pakana't pakaliwa  
Ang buntot ang bahala.*)  
(*Timon*)

A bamboo receptacle  
Can become a bell.  
Umbrella

(*Maging bongbong isimpan  
Saka maging mongmongan.*)  
(*Payong*)

When there was no gold to guard  
He stood haughty and proud  
When it came his way  
He stooped to obey.  
Straw

(*Ng walang biring ginto  
Doon nagpapalalo  
Ng magkaginto-ginto  
Doon na nga sumuko.*)  
(*Dayami*)