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Consisting of barangays Lay-asan, Pangol, Dupligan and Mabaca of Tanudan, Kalinga and Barangay Lower Bunot of Paracelis Mountain Province, the people belonging to the Subcultural Community of Pangol live high up in the mountains nestled at the center of Tanudan municipality in the northern part of the Philippines.

Although gradually being influenced by the modern way of life, the Pangol people still practice several of their customary rites and traditions just like the rest of the Kalinga subcultural communities. But as years pass, some of these customs are slowly vanishing as the people start to adopt contemporary standard of living.

The Pangol subcultural communities are known for their unique wedding ritual called the barogway, an event that is celebrated only by the Pangol people among all cultural communities in Kalinga. Barogway is usually a result of a binurayan (pre-arranged marriage), where parents of both parties even in the early life of their children would agree to have their children marry in the future.

However, with the entry of modern marriage rituals such as church weddings, performance of the barogway rites has slowly diminished as part of the peoples' common cultural practice.

The first Barogway Festival

On July 10, 2009, the National Commission on Culture and the Arts (NCCA) through the sub commission on Cultural Communities and Traditional Arts sponsored the first Barogway Festival in an attempt to revive the slowly vanishing culture even as a performing art for the younger generations to learn and appreciate.

The threat of an imminent downpour did not dampen the spirits of the people as they gathered around Ammaboy Elementary School in Lay-asan, Tanudan, for the festival. People in bright costumes were all over the place parading the distinct Kalinga tapis (wrap around skirt) for the women and bahag (g-string) for the men, and of course, the bongor (beads) and the intricate tinali (bracelets) Kalinga accessories that could not be missed.

A wedding for the well-off

They say that the barogway ritual is a very special occasion for the Pangol people considering that only rich families could afford to hold such event. This event entails multifarious ceremonies involving so many people compared to the simple pamamanhikan of the Tagalogs or the danun of the Ilocanos.

The ritual starts with the 'doca' or the invitation from the side of the bride (binabai-an) for the

nilalaki-an (grooms side) by sending messengers. Doca is done when the emissaries enter the village shouting (pakuy), the invitation for a barogway for the nilalaki-an's relatives and the village to know of their intention. As one faction the group of the nilalakian with gifts in tow, will follow the messengers to the binabai-an's village or home to celebrate the painum (a welcome rite).

A welcome party headed by the binabai-an's parents will then meet the visitors and offer bayas or basi (sugar wine) placed in a 'bassawit', 'pinaraya' or the 'komkomog' (native drinking utensils made of bamboo) while 'moma' will be distributed to the visitors. During this rite, welcome words and acceptance are expressed through chants like the 'sogsogna', 'sao-sao-ay' or 'ullalim'. If the gifts such as inabel (woven cloth), panay (ancient Chinese ceramic plates) or 'bongor' (beads) satisfy the binabai-an's, then they will proceed and enter the compound of the binabai-an's home.

At the center of the assembly, the binabai-an's relatives will place an upturned mortar and a woven basket to hold the gifts for the bride and groom. The relatives of the groom are likewise given special seats near the couple being the 'sanga-ili' (visitors) and 'pakamang' (in-laws).

Dances and singing will then be performed with the use of 'gangsa' (gongs) and various Kalinga bamboo instruments such as the 'dong-ngadong', 'sugay-po', and 'balimbing' simultaneous with the bringing of various gifts for the couple. Elders and parents are beckoned to deliver messages through chanting. Basi is brought around in bamboo tubes by the men while the women distribute glutinous rice delicacies and coffee.