



# Mafussi

**IBANAG, CAGAYAN PROVINCE, NORTHERN LUZON ISLAND, NORTHERN PHILIPPINES.** *Corn harvest among the Ibanag comes with the celebration of a ritual called pamusing before the actual harvest takes place.*

A MEMBER of the family (initiator) picks a good day to observe this. He goes to the corn field and counts three rows from the southeast corner of the field and gathers the first three ears of corn. He ties the three ears together with a strong vine called *lanu na ganipang*. He brings the corn home and hangs them over the *dapuga* (fire place) as an offering.

The corn harvest takes place the day after the *pamusing*. The initiator, this time with the *gappa* (basket), performs another ritual connected with the *pamusing*. He goes around these particular corn stalks where the first three corn ears came from and gathers the corn. When the *gappa* is filled, he takes it to the *careta*, a cart for loading the harvested corn. He approaches the *careta* solemnly and prays. He empties the *gappa* slowly and very silently, so as

not to disturb the invisible beings thereabouts, as well as show reverence to the Almighty. With the prayers done, he calls on the others to continue the harvest. The bringing home of the *careta* calls for another ritual.

The gathering of tobacco leaves (*maggatu*) is also preceded by a *pamusing*. This requires gathering the first few leaves of tobacco from the same direction and conditions as that of the corn. These are bundled together usually with a red ribbon, decorated with *amiling* (pepper) leaves and brought home quietly. These are not to come in contact with any piece of iron and *tabbi* (leather) so that, as the belief goes, the tobacco when smoked will burn well (for corn, it is so that they will not rot).

JTP