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**Lah Jau Uyoh and Heidi Munan**

The following song in praise of Hinan Tijan's beads was sung on the evening of 15th July 1998 in the Tuai Rumah's room at Long Laput, by Unyang Wan. Unyang Wan is a well-known singer; she has been called upon to sing at festivals and public functions when it is important to show proper respect to distinguished visitors.

The soloist sings each stanza, and the chorus on the last word or group of words which the translator italicized. The chorus to each stanza is then taken up by the ladies (Balu Urai, Lucia Paya Kalang, Aria Turan, Paya Igan). The men present listened with interest and some approving nods at particularly fine turns of phrase, they joined the chorus but only *sotto voce*.

The song was translated for me (Heidi) several times;

- in whispered 'asides' by Aria Turan while singing and recording was in progress,
- by Aria in the express boat on the way from Long Laput to Marudi against a background of considerable noise,
- in writing by Mr. Lah Jau Uyoh, soil surveyor, of Kuching.

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The text given below is Mr. Lah's transcription and translation, insertions in square brackets were made by me, to elucidate the poetic language.

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|---|--|---|---|
| 1 | Aleng anun hinan,<br>Hinan et Tijan<br>di bulan <i>ngeben</i> ..... <i>livei</i> | 1 | [the beads that] belong to<br>the mother<br>The Mother of Tijan<br>The beautiful one. |
| 2 | Ngepuan di pepili,<br>nah awi batung,<br>anih <i>beni</i> ..... <i>parei</i>     | 2 | As if specially selected<br>Were the pieces<br>Like grains of rice.                   |

- |    |  |    |  |
|----|--|----|--|
| 3  | Di te' lukut sekala'<br>anah anun na'<br>matan <i>dau</i> ..... <i>pudei</i>           | 3  | There is a <i>lukut sekala'</i><br>That belongs to her<br>The shining one.                     |
| 4  | Avin iha' ngioh<br>Joh hipun uma<br>lasan <i>beran</i> ..... <i>parei</i>              | 4  | Because she followed,<br>The way of the nobles<br>The foundation of the<br>rice soul           |
| 5  | Iha' nah iha' deng hipun,<br>anah inu pa'un<br>Di <i>pekenlatau</i> ..... <i>nugei</i> | 5  | That is why she owns<br>Precious heirloom beads<br>In great abundance                          |
| 6  | Legah di kelunan<br>Di ketanan<br>di <i>menuna'</i> ..... <i>jiwei</i>                 | 6  | Was the price/ransom of<br>a man<br>That thing,<br>Long ago                                    |
| 7  | Di men daha'<br>maren aya'<br>Di <i>petingan</i> ..... <i>matei</i>                    | 7  | [beads reserved] for those<br>Of the highest nobility<br>Who are most deadly.                  |
| 8  | Avan daha' nuyu<br>Kayo' lalu<br>Ala <i>bavui</i> ..... <i>banrei</i>                  | 8  | Which they used in<br>exchange<br>For the life of a warrior,<br>That can catch the<br>wildboar |
| 9  | Ngesuvuk keling kele'<br>Na' na ting<br>Ting <i>tube'</i> ..... <i>lingei</i>          | 9  | There are several<br>strings<br>Of the [blue glass] tube'<br>beads                             |
| 10 | Nan te' di pah kajau<br>Na' lan ting<br>Na' ting <i>lukut</i> ..... <i>tavei</i>       | 10 | Here are beautiful<br>Strings<br>Of the " <i>lukut tavei</i> "                                 |
| 11 | Na ngahum lan<br>Anun Hinan Tijan<br>di bulan <i>ngeben</i> ..... <i>livei</i>         | 11 | Hinan Tijan<br>The beautiful one<br>Has lots of them.  |



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|--|--|
| 12 Di te' di pah teba'eng<br>Na' di tepiyuk ngameng<br>Te' tuman <i>di ken ... lawei</i> | 12 She also has bracelets<br>That cling closely<br>To the hands and legs   |
| 13 Te' pah lavang pagang<br>Pah ma'ang ilang<br>Pah bulan <i>ngeben..... livei</i>       | 13 There are also [yellow]<br><i>lavang pagang</i><br>Forming complete<br>necklaces<br>Belonging to the beautiful<br>one |
| 14 Avin higet jembun<br>Ani duyung Devung<br><i>Menuna' ..... jiwei</i>                  | 14 Which their grandmother<br>Devung, gave them [Tijan<br>and sisters]<br>A long time ago                                |
| 15 Ee melo'<br>Nah dalo' o'<br>Ni <i>nu'un..... nanbei</i>                               | 15 They<br>Kept<br>That precious thing.  |
| 16 Ji la'ung<br>Pah em te' uwe'<br>Nah marung <i>aleng.. nurei</i>                       | 16 Not a single one<br>Has a fault<br>On it  |
| 17 Avin hinam<br>Haten petingan<br>Te' ket <i>aleng..... nurei</i>                       | 17 Because your mother<br>Valued greatly<br>Such things  |
| 18 Melo' bareng asen<br>Anih bareng mahen<br><i>Pekenlalau..... nugei</i>                | 18 Who treasured these<br>heirlooms<br>Which are expensive<br>Extremely dear.  |
| 19 En na' na di nah<br>Selaku di nah dahin doh<br>di <i>men lung..... hungei</i>         | 19 Which she showed<br>To the lady <sup>i</sup><br>From the mouth of<br>the river  |
| 20 Kelem ta'ee ika'<br>Men deng ngito'<br>Marung <i>aleng..... nurei</i>                 | 20 <i>Kelem ta'ee</i> <sup>ii</sup>  |