



The Sarawak Museum Journal

Vol. XXXIII No. 54

December 1984



ISSN: 0375-3050

E-ISSN: 3036-0188

Citation: Luping, H. J. (1984). The Making of a "Kadazan Huguan Siou" (Great Leader). The Sarawak Museum Journal, XXXIII (54): 83-88

THE MAKING OF A "KADAZAN HUGUAN SIOU" (GREAT LEADER)

Datuk H J. Luping

The term Huguan Siou means the great leader. The word is in the Kadazan Penampang and Papar dialect. In other places such as in Ranau or Kudat, the word would be "Luguan Siou". The story behind the Huguan Siou legend is now covered in the mist of time. Legend has it, however, that he was a great and brave leader. He was the number one "Pangazou" of the time. "Pangazou" means warrior, but in present-day parlance it means head-hunter. The Kadazans in those days were at war amongst themselves.

The reason for this enmity amongst the same speech people was probably due to the lack of communication to link the various areas. The Penampang people probably thought they were a "nation" in themselves, and the Tambunan people were considered another "nation". In the old days, when a Kadazan asked a fellow Kadazan where he came from, he did not say, "where is your village or kampung", but asked "where is your "pomogunan" — "nation". The word "kampong" is an imported Malay word, and perhaps this was why Kadazans used the word "pomogunan", which really meant nation or country. In the old days, therefore, there was always the feeling that a man from another "pomogunan" such as Tambunan, were "them" or "they", and had nothing to do with say the people from "Pomogunan Penampang", who would have the "we" feeling amongst themselves. In the old days, therefore "Pangazous" were sent on a "raid" or to do battle with the "they" people in another "pomogunan". This raid by the "warriors" is believed to precede the great "moginakan" or harvest festival.

THE MAKING OF A "KADAZAN HUGUAN SIOU" (GREAT LEADER)¹

by

Datuk H.J. Luping

The term Huguan Siou means the great leader. The word is in the Kadazan Penampang and Papar dialect. In other places such as in Ranau or Kudat, the word would be "Luguan Siou". The story behind the Huguan Siou legend is now covered in the mist of time. Legend has it, however, that he was a great and brave leader. He was the number one "Pangazou" of the time. "Pangazou" means warrior, but in present-day parlance it means head-hunter. The Kadazans in those days were at war amongst themselves.

The reason for this enmity amongst the same speech people was probably due to the lack of communication to link the various areas. The Penampang people probably thought they were a "nation" in themselves, and the Tambunan people were considered another "nation". In the old days, when a Kadazan asked a fellow Kadazan where he came from, he did not say, "where is your village or kampung", but asked "where is your "pomogunan" — "nation". The word "kampong" is an imported Malay word, and perhaps this was why Kadazans used the word "pomogunan", which really meant nation or country. In the old days, therefore, there was always the feeling that a man from another "pomogunan" such as Tambunan, were "them" or "they", and had nothing to do with say the people from "Pomogunan Penampang", who would have the "we" feeling amongst themselves. In the old days, therefore "Pangazous" were sent on a "raid" or to do battle with the "they" people in another "pomogunan". This raid by the "warriors" is believed to precede the great "moginakan" or harvest festival.

It is not clearly known where "Huguan Siou" came from. The people from "pomogunan Penampang", have their own story of a "Huguan Siou", but so too would the people of "pomogunan Tambunan" or other "pomogunans" of the Kadazans. The story of Huguan Siou, then is not confined to the Penampang or Papar districts (The Penampang legend of Huguan Siou, however, is that he existed before the Murut legendary Antanom. This latter leader of the Murut people was very active in promoting the Murut

(1) The source materials for this article are obtained from the following:—

- (i) Minutes of Society of Kadazan, Penampang (1953–1960).
- (ii) Minutes of United National of Kadazan Organisation (UNKO) 1963–1967.
- (iii) UNITED PASOK MOMOGAN KADAZAN Organisation (UPKO) April 1967.