

Capítulo 16

DE OTROS PECES GRANDES COMO EL *LABINDUYON*, PEZ-ESPAÑA Y OTROS, Y SU MODO DE COGERLOS POR ACÁ

Después de haber tratado del *duyon*, se sigue decir algo del pez que acá llaman *labinduyon*, que quiere decir “más que *duyon*,” y este más no es porque son de mayor virtud y mejores calidades, sino porque es más grande y más largo.

Sólo uno he visto yo de esta especie, que no son tantos como los *duyones*, o, por mejor decir, se buscan y pescan menos. Era de largo sus cuatro brazas, y aun más, el cuerpo, y color de la tez como de *duyon*; la cabeza más larga y con algo de cuello (que el *duyon* ya dijimos que no le tiene). La parte inferior, desde la cabeza a la barriga (tiene también sus dos alones o brazos como el *duyon*), es de particular hechura, porque es toda de pliegues, tan menudos a la larga, como las tocas de algunas viudas, que les ponen muchos a las suyas, y es cierto que están con tanta curiosidad que parecen hechos a mano y con mucho vagar.

Tiene dientes y muelas, pero los colmillos no son como los del *duyon* ni están en el mismo lugar sino en el ordinario de los demás animales, y su hechura es rolliza o redonda, algo piramidales y cortos, de modo que se semejan más a los colmillos grandes del caimán que a los del *duyon*. Son tan sólidos como estos, aunque se pueden sacar pocas cuentas por ser tan cortos.

De su virtud no sabemos cosa. La carne es semejante a la del *duyon* en todo, y también comen la de este *labinduyon* los indios como la del *duyon*, y de la misma manera estiman el *bugsangan*, o cola, que la del otro, pues, como dijimos, lo tienen por la parte más sabrosa.

Chapter 16

CONCERNING OTHER LARGE FISH LIKE THE *LABINDUYUNG*, THE SWORDFISH AND OTHERS: THEIR METHOD OF CATCHING THEM OVER HERE

After having discussed the *duyung*, let us say something about the fish they call *labinduyung*,¹ which means to say 'more than duyung'. This 'more' does not mean that it is of greater worth or has better qualities, but because it is larger and longer.

I have seen only one of this species which are not plentiful as the *duyung*, or better said: they look for them and fish for them less. Its body is about four *brazas* long and even more; the color of the skin like that of the *duyung*. The head is longer and with something of a neck (the *duyung* does not have one, as we have already stated). The under portion, from the head to the belly (it also has two wings or anus like the *duyung*) is of a peculiar shape because it was covered with folds lengthwise like the ribbons of the widows who wear many of them on their persons. Certainly, they are fashioned with such distinction as if they were made by hand with much preciseness.

It has teeth and molars, but the teeth are not like those of the *duyung*; neither are they in the same place but in the ordinary location as in other animals. Their shape is cylindrical or round and a bit tapered at the point and short. They resemble more the large teeth of the cayman than that of the *duyung*. They are as hard as the latter; however, few beads can be made out of them because they are so short.

About their powers we do not know a thing. The flesh is similar to the *duyung* in every way and the natives also eat the *labinduyung* just like the *duyung*. In the same manner they value the *bugsanga*² or tail as that of the other; as we have said, they consider it as the more tasty portion.

Tan grande como es este *labinduyon*, y a las veces más, es el pez que acá llaman unos *tagdangan*, y otros *pagkangan*, por la desmedida punta clava, o sierra de colmillos, que tiene en su oficio, y por esto le llaman pez-espada los españoles, aunque es muy distinto este del que en España tiene dicho nombre.

He visto yo uno y otros, el de allá y el de acá, y así de este digo que la prodigiosa punta que llaman espada (aunque ni lo es ni tiene que ver con ella) es tan grande que ni diez espadas de las más anchas de España harían una de estas. He visto yo muchas y muy grandes; la más larga pasa buen pedazo de braza, y la más ancha de un buen palmo de medir. No son iguales en lo largo y ancho todas, porque algunas son mucho más anchas aunque menos largas, y otras mucho más largas y más angostas; toda esta punta es de un hueso sólido y durísimo, cubierta con su pellejo, como de raya aún pequeña, que las grandes rayas (como después veremos), de las muchas que hay acá, la tienen mucho más áspera. Tiene su remate romo, no puntiagudo, sino en mucho círculo chato, a distancia de tres a tres dedos. Tiene por entrambas partes, como *ronfea bisacuta*, unas puntas parecidas en todo a los colmillos de los puercos monteses, o javalíes (excepto que estas son más derechas, con una pequeña comba hacia arriba) y muy afilados. Es cierto que sólo verla, aun cortada la cabeza de esta fiera bestia, causa grima. No puede herir de punta porque, como dijimos, es bota, y así solo da encontrón con ella para apartar y hacer campo.

Cuando riñen con los caimanes (sus opuestos y grandes enemigos, y con otros peces grandes como él) y entonces hiere de cuchillada a ambos lados, y cuando coge la barriga del caimán en buena disposición, la abre de arriba abajo, rasgándola totalmente (si el caimán se retira), todo el pecho y vientre o hijares; pero, si se aparta, le deja tantos agujeros cuantas son las puntas, que pasan de cuarenta a cada lado en las largas. [*Spanish text confusing*]

Es providencia divina que no puede dar altibajo y tomar (como dijimos aire) al herir, porque nada ni nadie le pudiera esperar ni resistir, pues, aun con herir al soslayo, suele hender una de las canoas, o *balotos*, que acá llamamos, con un revés, como solemos partir un rábano.

Es con todo este pez tímido y que no arremete si no es hostigado, y no ha muchos meses (cuando esto escribo) que un mocetoncillo que, cuando mucho, tendría de dieciséis a diecisiete años, mató uno tan

As large as the *labinduyung*, and at times even larger, is the fish which some call here *tagdangan*³ and others, *pakangan*⁴ due to the disproportionately large, pointed, sharply fashioned teeth which it has at its service. As a result, the Spaniards call them '*pez-espada*'⁵ but this one is distinct from the one in Spain which has the same name.

I have seen the one and the other, here and over there. Hence, about this one, I say that the incredible point that they call a sword (although it is not one, nor does it resemble one) is so large that not even ten swords of the widest from Spain would make one of these. I have seen many great ones; the longest goes well beyond a *brasa* and the broadest a good *palmo*. They are not all equal in length and width because some are very much wider, although not as long; others very much longer and much narrower. This entire point is one, solid bone and very hard and covered by a skin more like that of a ray-fish when still young, as we shall see later. Large numbers of them here have a much rougher hide. The end of the 'sword' is blunt; not pointed but flat in a half circle, a distance from one to three fingers from one side to the other. On both sides, like a '*ronfea biscuta*',⁶ it has some points that are entirely similar to the teeth of the mountain pigs or wild boars except that these are straighter with a little curvature toward the top and very sharp. It is certain that just to look at the severed head of this ferocious beast causes horror. It cannot wound with the point because, as we have said, it is blunt. And so, it only deals a blow with it to discourage and to clear the way.

When they fight with the crocodiles (their opponents and great enemies, and with other fish as large as they are) then it might wound like a knife on both sides. When it catches the belly of the crocodile in a good position, it opens it from top to bottom cutting completely through, (if the cayman withdraws) the entire breast, belly and intestines open. But if it separates, it leaves as many wounds as there are spines which exceed more than forty on each side.

It is divinely providential that it cannot deal an outright fencing blow (as we have said) and permit air to enter the wound because nothing and no one is able to withstand and resist this. For even with a slanting blow it is able to slash open one of the canoes or *balutus*, as we call them here, and with one sweep to slice it as we slice a radish.

All in all, this fish is timid and does not attack if it is not threatened. It was not so many months ago (as I write this) that a young fellow, who at most was sixteen to seventeen years, killed one so large

grande que no pudo cargar en la embarcacioncilla en que salió a pescar, con fisga, acompañado de otros muchachos, y así lo llevaron a remolque hasta la orilla, y allí le hicieron pedazos, repartiendo con otros muchos que acudieron, y a mi me trajo después la punta dicha, que llaman *tagdang* y de ahí al pez *tagdangan*, que quiere decir “el que tiene dicha punta”, y era de las más anchas que yo he visto, aunque no tan larga como otras.

Es su carne como de tiburón, que también es su enemigo. Cuando pequeñitos (que cada día los cogen por acá) son como cazoncillos en talla, color y sabor, excepto la dicha punta del hocico que, aun en los muy pequeños, pasa de un palmo de largo y dos dedos de ancho, con sus dientecillos como de una sierra pequeña. Después crece tanto, como hemos dicho, y es cierto que es género de arma ofensiva que no ha imitado el arte, ni tiene que ver con ella la decantada “*clava de Hercules*”, porque no hubiera pulso humano que la pudiera gobernar ni regir si fuera muy grande, y, siendo pequeña, impidiera más que aprovechara con tantas puntas, que fueran otros tantos asideros en daño del que la jugara. No he sabido cosa especial de este pez más de las dichas, y así no pongo más.

Vengamos a los tiburones que, aunque es pez general y que en todos los mares se halla, los de acá pienso (según lo que he oído de otras partes y visto en estas) que exceden en tamaño y grandeza a los de las otras.

Diré lo que he oído especial de ellos y he visto por acá. El tamaño llega algunas veces al que dijimos de los *duyones*. No tiene los brazos que ellos, pero tiene muchos más alones arriba del espinazo y a los lados, como los otros de este género. El color es blanquecino, el pellejo más delgado, la carne blanca y que en nada tiene que ver con la del *duyon*.

Es enemigo por acá declarado de los caimanes este tiburón, que acá llaman *iho* y pelea desaforadamente con ellos, y, según dicen los naturales, los vence y mata a los caimanes, aunque son mayores y más armados de escamas y colmillos que ellos, si bien los dientes de los tiburones son fierísimos y al modo que dijimos de las *savas* o culebras grandes. Tienen a dos y tres órdenes de dientes afiladísimos y que cortan aun los huesos al vuelo. Ya se ha visto rebañar el muslo de un hombre, casi sin sentirlo él, echando [de] menos primero su muslo que sintiese

that he could not haul it into the little vessel in which he had gone out to fish with a harpoon, in the company of other boys. So they brought it in by towing it to the shore. There they cut it up, dividing it with as many others as approached; afterwards they brought me this point which is called *tagdang* and from this comes the name of the fish *tagdangan*, which means to say "that which has a point". It was one of the widest I have ever seen, although not as long as the others.

The flesh of this fish is like that of the shark, which is also its enemy. When they are very small (and they are caught here every day) they are like little sharks in shape, color, and taste, except for this point of the snout. Even in the smallest, this exceeds a *palmo* in length and two fingers in width, with its little teeth like a small saw. Later it grows to the great size we have mentioned. It is certain that is a kind of offensive weapon which has not been imitated in the art of war, nor can one see in it the exaggerated story of the '*clava de Hércules*',⁷ because no living human could wield it or manage it if it were larger. If it were a small one it would hinder more than assist the fighter with such large points that the other wielders might be in danger of the one who might be using it. I have not learned any other peculiarity of these fish, so I shall not set down anything more.

We come to the sharks; although it is a common fish and is found in all the seas, those here I think (according to what I have heard about other places and have seen here) that they surpass in size and greatness those from elsewhere.

I shall tell what I have heard and seen as peculiar about them here. The size sometimes approaches to what we said about the *duyungs*. It does not have the arms of the latter, but it has many more fins over the spine and at the sides as the others of this species do. The color is white-like, the skin thinner, the flesh white and it does not resemble the *duyung* in anyway.

The shark is the declared enemy over here of the crocodiles. Over here the shark is called *ihu*⁸ and it fights furiously with the crocodiles. According to the natives, they overpower and kill the crocodiles even though the latter are larger and better protected by scales and teeth than they. Nonetheless, the teeth of the sharks are extremely vicious and in the manner of what we said about the *sawas*⁹ or huge snakes. They have two or three rows of extremely sharp teeth, which cut even the bones at one strike. It has been seen to slice off the thigh of a person from the buttocks to the knee almost without his feeling it. He

la herida, como sucede a los que riñen, que primero ven la sangre que sienten el golpe.

Suelen llevarse la mitad de la cola y el pie, o brazo, a los caimanes cuando riñen, y de esta manera he cogido, como dije ya, caimanes mancos y cojos y sin cola por habérselas comido el tiburón, y, si puede dar bocado en la barriga del caimán, la despedaza, porque es mucho más ágil en el agua que él sin comparación. Y mientras el caimán se revuelve, él hace dos y tres presas en él, y, cuando estos tiburones se saborean en carne humana, son no menos fieros y carniceros que los caimanes.

De su carne comen los indios bien, cuando son pequeños; no así de los grandes, porque dicen que comen gente, y tal vez se ha visto morir algunos por haber comido carne de tiburón grande; cosa que sucede acá con otros pescados grandes muchas veces (como diremos de las tortugas en el Capítulo siguiente). Tienen todos ellos, grandes y chicos, dos piedras en el cerebro (hélas sacado yo muchas veces), blancas como muy blanco yeso, del tamaño y hechura de un dátil de España, más o menos, según son de grandes. No son duras, aunque son sólidas, casi como las paletillas de las tibias, si bien no en todos los tiempos están las dichas piedras cuajadas; y, aunque esté el encaje, o casilla, donde se crían, en la cabeza y en medio de los sesos, unas veces se hallan llenas, enteras y sólidas, otras aguanosas y casi vacías, con un humor más o menos sólido, aunque tan blanco como la leche, que debe de ser la materia de que se engendran dichas piedras, que son (según dicen) de mucha virtud contra las piedras que se crían en las vejigas, o riñones humanos, y he oído a algunos que se han hallado bien bebiéndolas desleídas en agua o vino. Yo he usado este remedio algunas veces, pero con poco o ningún efecto; que no todos los remedios son a propósito para todos.

Dicen los bisayas (y es muy trivial entre ellos) que los cazoncillos, sus hijos, entran y salen hasta un mes, poco más o menos, después de nacidos en el vientre de su madre, y por esta causa las mujeres bisayas, cuando están preñadas, de ninguna manera comen cazón, porque dicen se le pegará a la criatura la maña y será difícil el que nazca y salga afuera del vientre materno. Muy buena conseja para tontos, y sonlo tanto estos que lo creen como si fuera la mayor verdad del mundo.

is more aware of the loss of his thigh than the pain of the wound, as happens with those who fight and first see the blood before they feel the blow.

Sometimes they carry off half of the tail or the foot or arm of the crocodiles when they fight. I have caught in this condition as I have already stated, lame, blind and tailless crocodiles because the shark has eaten them. If it can bite into the belly of the crocodile, it can cut the latter to pieces because it is incomparably much more agile in the water than the former. While the crocodile is turning around, the shark makes two or three strikes at it. When these sharks have tasted human flesh they are no less vicious people eaters than the crocodiles.

The natives eat its flesh with delight when they are small, but not the large ones because they say that such ate people, and possibly some have been seen to die for having eaten the flesh of a mature shark. [*This is*] a circumstance which happens here frequently in the case of other larger fishes (as we shall relate in the case of the turtles in the following chapter). All [the sharks], both the large and the small, have two stones in the skull (I have taken them out many times). They are white, like very white gypsum, about the size and shape of a Spanish date, more or less, depending on whether they are full grown. They are not hard, although they are solid, almost like the cartilage of the shin bone. However, not always are these stones solidified. Although the cavity or the enclosure where they grow is in the head and in the center of the brain, they are found sometimes full size and solid in other places. Others are watery and almost hollow with a somewhat hardened humor, almost as white as milk. This must be the matter from which the stones develop and are of greater value than the stones which grow in the bladder and kidneys of humans. I have heard from some individuals that they were found to be beneficial by drinking them dissolved in water or wine. I have used this remedy sometimes but with little or no effect. Not all remedies are good for everybody.

The Bisayans say (and it is very commonly held among them) that the small sharks, their offspring, go in and out of the womb of their mother as long as a month, more or less, after their birth. For this reason the Bisayan women, when they are pregnant, under no circumstance eat shark because they say that this ability might attach itself to their unborn child, and it will be difficult for it to be born and emerge from the maternal womb. This is fine advice for simple people and such believe it as if it were the greatest truth in the world.

Otros géneros de peces hay por acá, en el cuerpo y tamaño nada inferiores a los tiburones, aunque muy distintos en calidades y mañas. Lllaman a uno *paet*, porque amarga algo su carne, en especial la cabeza, pero no es tan amargo lo demás que impida el comerlo, antes es un género de agrio que la añade algún gusto.

Distínguese del tiburón en que es más largo de suyo y menos grueso, aunque no suele crecer tanto como él y tiene la cabeza muy larga y un hocico larguísimo, quedando la boca muy lejos de él. Es el hocico a modo de pala de horno, pero puntiagudo, y tiene tan ancho lo grande de la cabeza que en algunos, cuando son grandes, tendrá dos palmos, y de largo cuatro, y más esta punta es la que le da el nombre de *paet* y es de una carne casi transparente a modo de ternilla de vaca, sin hueso ninguno, aunque es muy correosa, amarga y dura. La otra carne es como la del tiburón, y la comen con menos asco, porque no es pez carnicero.

Otro hay, a quien llaman *lubarug*. Es especie de *paet*, pero suele ser mucho mayor y la cabeza muy distinta, porque de los hombros saca una grande media luna. Cuando es el pez crecido tendrá de diámetro, de punta a punta, cinco y más palmos. En las dos puntas tienen los ojos (tanto como esto distan el uno del otro) y en la medianía, que es comba su cabeza, o que sirve de cabeza al modo dicho, es de hueso con poca carne, y esta no se puede comer por ser muy amarga, y mucho más de la que llaman *paet*, aunque en lo demás se semeja mucho. Sólo se diferencian en que este *lubarug* suele crecer mucho más.

Todos estos, y otros como ellos, pueden entrar en la especie de los tiburones, pues en color, hechura y carne se semejan, sacando lo dicho en que se diferencian no poco y en que no comen esta carne humana, como suelen los tiburones, y de otros animales y sabandijas terrestres muertos.

Los que en España se llaman abufeos, y toninas, que acá llaman los bisayas *lomhor*, se hallan por acá tan grandes y mayores que por allá. Es la tonina más corta que el bufeo, y su carne tan gorda que no se puede comer fresca; y así, cuando los indios la cogen, la dejan colgada un día y una noche, dando algunas heridas para que salga la gordura, y con esto basta para que se escurra. Después los hacen pedazos menores, que se secan al sol o al fuego, y, cuando están ya enjutos, los

There are other types of fish here which are not less in size than the sharks, although with very different characteristics and habits. One they call *pait*¹⁰ because its flesh is somewhat bitter, especially the head. But the rest of it is not so bitter to prevent from being eaten; it is rather a kind of a sharpness that adds a bit of flavor to it.

It may be distinguished from the shark in that it is greater in length and smaller in girth. However, it does not usually grow as big as the latter. It has a very long head and an extremely long snout with the mouth quite a distance from it. The snout is in the fashion of a '*pala de horno*'¹¹ but sharply pointed. It is a width equal to that of the head which, in some when they are grown, will spread two *palmos*, and extend four in length. Moreover, it is this point which gives it its name of *pait*. It is almost transparent flesh, like the gristle from a cow without any bone. However, it is very flexible, bitter and hard. The rest of the flesh is like that of the shark and they eat it with less disgust because it is not a carnivorous fish.

There is another which they call *lubarug*.¹² It is a species of the *pait*, but it is usually much larger and the head very different because it comes out of the shoulders like a great half moon. When the fish is grown this will be five or more *palmos* in diameter from point to point. In the two points it has its eyes (this is how far they are separated, one from the other). In between, which is a curve, is the head, or what serves as a head in the manner indicated. It is of bone with little flesh, and the latter cannot be eaten because it is very bitter, much more than what they call *pait*. The only difference with this *lubarug* is that it grows much larger.

All these, and others like them, can be classified in the category of sharks; for in color, shape and flesh they are similar, saving what has been said about their considerable differences and in the fact that these do not eat human flesh like the sharks do or that of other dead land animals and reptiles.

Those which are called in Spain '*buefos*'¹³ and '*toninas*'¹⁴ are called here by the Bisayans *lumud*¹⁵ and are found here as large and larger than over there. The tuna is shorter than the *buefo* and its flesh is so fat that it cannot be eaten fresh. So when the natives catch it they leave it hanging up for a day and a night, making some wounds in it so that the fat comes out. This suffices for it to drain off. Afterwards they cut it up into small pieces and dry them in the sun or at the fire. When they dry, the natives eat it and they say that

comen, y dicen son muy buenos. Los bufeos, aunque son gordos, se dejan comer, y en algunas partes los comen con mucho gusto y dicen son muy buenos. No he probado ni uno ni otro.

Atunes por acá no se hallan, aunque en las costas de Ibabao (que son las más vecinas al Japón y traen las corrientes de él a ellas muchos pinos y muy grandes, en especial cuando ventan los nortes que vienen de hacia allá) se suelen ver algunas veces, y son como los de España, pero no los cogen los indios, porque no suelen llegar cerca de la tierra.

Los que acá son como atunes, y en sabor y figura se le parecen, son unos que llaman *bancoles*, pero son mucho más pequeños, pues el mayor no pasará de cinco palmos, y lo común no llegan a cuatro, pero en las vetas, o como cacos, que tiene la carne, en la sangre y en las calidades de malsanos, cuando frescos, son como los atunes, y, cuando salados, en nada se diferencian de ellos y por acá se estiman más, porque se hallan menos, aunque, hay otros muchos pescados que, salados, les imitan no poco.

De las que llaman rayas, o mantas en Castilla, y acá *pagus*, con nombre general, hay por acá muchas diferencias, y muy otras que las de España. Las que llaman *saranga* los indios son como las que allá llaman mantas, pero son por acá grandísimas; la hechura la misma, anchas y redonda la circunferencia; su cola muy larga con la “puya,” que acá llaman *bisul*, que en algunas de las rayas es venenosísima, y no son pocos los que han muerto heridos de ellas sino se les acude con remedio luego; y muchos, a bien librar, quedan mancos si les picó en la mano o brazo, y, si en los pies, cojos. Las que crían un género de lama verdinegra, que se apega en las dichas púas, son los peores.

El mayor provecho que de estas *sarangas* sacan acá es el aceite que sacan de los hígados, que suelen ser tan grandes, a las veces, que de un hígado sacan tres y cuatro azumbres de aceite, y es el mayor que por acá se halla para aderezos de embarcaciones, y las *galagalas*, que dijimos, usan por acá los chinos, y otros a su imitación. La carne es muy recia y dura, y así la comen pocos.

Las rayas, que llaman *ponsoan*, no crecen tanto como las *sarangas*, pero tienen los pellejos durísimos y como ataraceados de unas conchuelas muy vistosas, unas redondas; otras como estrellas con sus rayas, o rayos;

it is good. The *bufeos*, even though they are fat, can be eaten; in some places they are eaten with much relish and they say that they are good. I have not tried the one or the other.

Tunny fish are not found over here, although along the coasts of Ibabaw (which is the closest proximity to Japan and the currents from there carry many and very large pine trees to these coasts, especially when the north winds blow which come from that general direction) they are sometimes seen. They are like those in Spain but the natives do not catch them because they usually do not come near the land.

Those here that are like the tunnies and resemble them in taste and appearance, are some which they call *bankules*.¹⁶ But they are very much smaller, for the largest does not surpass five *palmos* and ordinarily they do not reach four. But in the streaks or kind of '*cascos*' which has the flesh, in the blood, and in unhealthy characteristic when fresh, they are like tunas. When salted they differ in no way from the latter, and here they are more highly esteemed because they are caught less often. However, there are many other fish which salted resemble them not a little.

Again, of those which they call ray fish or '*mantas*' in Castile and here *pagi*¹⁷ as a general name, there are more varieties here than in Spain. Those which are called *saranga*¹⁸ by the natives are like those which over there they call *mantas*. But here, they are extremely large and the shape is the same; it is broad and the circumference rounded. Its tail is very long with the sharp point which they call here *bisul*.¹⁹ In some of the ray fish it is extremely poisonous and many have died when wounded by them unless they are aided immediately with a remedy. Many upon getting well remain maimed if they were bitten on the hand or arm; if on the feet, they are crippled. Those which develop a kind of dark green slime which sticks to these sharp points, are the worst.

The greatest good derived from these *sarangas* over here is the oil which is taken from their livers which is very large. From a single liver they can draw three or four *azumbres* of oil. This is the finest that can be found here for the fittings of ships and the *galagalas*²⁰ which we said the Chinese use here and others that resemble them. The flesh is very coarse and tough and so few eat it.

The ray fish which they call *ponsuan*,²¹ do not grow as large as the *sarangas*, but they have extremely tough hides. They are decorated with very colorful shells; some round, others like stars with their streaks or rays of light and still others in various forms. In between

otras de varias formas, y lo que entre estas conchuelas (que son naturales en ellas) queda del pellejo, es modo de puntillas como de erizo, con lo cual queda tan duro todo él que ni espada ni dardo ni lanza le hace mella alguna, y aun resiste a la bala de un arcabuz (no a la de un mosquete, y más si es Vizcaino).

Con estos pellejos, o cueros, suelen aforrar sus escudos o paveses los indios, y algunos hacen sus petos y casquillos que, curados al humo, quedan muy secos, y se les añade más dureza y arma muy defensiva. Otras rayas hay que tienen menos duros los pellejos, aunque sirven de limas a los indios en especial para maderas duras que comen en ellas mejor que las de hierro. A estos llaman *quilquig*, y a las rayas que los tienen, *dahonan*. Otras tienen los pellejos blandos y lisos.

Las especies de rayas que yo he contado són once o doce, todos semejantes en figura, distintas en grandeza y dureza de los pellejos. La especie que llaman *bitoanon* es hermosa y toda manchada de estrellas, que esto significa su nombre, que parece las pintaron allí, y algunas son de color azul muy fino.

Las que llaman *banogon* son como pájaros, la cabeza imita a la de los gavilanes, y las alas, y de ellos (que acá llaman *banog*) les dan nombre, y dan tan largos saltos en el agua por encima la superficie que parece que vuelan. Son de color pardo oscuro, con manchas blancas, y más parecen ave que pez. La cola es como las otras rayas, con su *puia*, y hay rayas que suelen tener dos y tres, pero la una mayor.

El modo de coger todos estos peces grandes es o con redes, que llaman *panamao*, que ponen en la mar (como suelen poner en la tierra para puercos y otros animales). En estas cogen comúnmente los *duyones*: aunque alguna vez suelen andar tantos juntos que se llevan las redes consigo, como me sucedió a mi una vez que mandé pescar con ellas, y habiéndolas puesto en el comedero de los *duyones*, cargaron tantos que se llevaron las redes sin poderlo remediar los pescadores, y jamás parecieron.

Cógenlos también con fisgas, o *buntales*, que hay muchos indios muy diestros en este ministerio, aunque cuando le hiere el harpón, antes que haya comido, es difícil de seguir, porque se lleva tras sí la embarcacioncilla en que van los pescadores, como una jara, y a las veces es necesario cortar el cordel porque no los saque la mar afuera y

these little shells (which are naturally part of them) is a kind of a little spine, like a hedgehog's, which protrude from the hide. Thus, the whole of it is so tough that not even a sword nor a dart nor lance makes any impression. It even resists the bullet of an arquebuse (not that of a musket, especially if it is a Vizcayan).

Out of these hides or skins, the natives make their breastplates and their little shields. When cured in smoke they become very dry and the process adds much toughness; it is a fine defensive weapon. Other rayfish, whose hides are less tough, serve as files for the natives, especially for hard woods and they eat into them better than those of iron. They call these *kilkig*²² and the rays that have them, *dahunan*.²³ Others have soft smooth hides.

The species of rayfish that I have counted are eleven or twelve; all similar in appearance, different in size and in the toughness of the hide. The type they call *bituunun*²⁴ is beautiful and all spotted with stars; this is what its name means, which seem to have been [like] painted there. Some are of a very delicate blue in color.

Those which they call *banugun*²⁵ are like birds; the head and the wings resembling that of the sparrow-hawks. They receive their name from these which are called *banug* here. They make such long leaps along the surface of the water that it seems that they are flying. They are a dark brown with white spots and seem more like a bird than a fish. The tail is like that of the other rays with its point; there are ray fish which may have two and three but one is larger.

The manner in catching all these large fish is: first with nets, which they call *panamaw*²⁶ and which they place in the sea (as they are accustomed to set them on land for wild hogs and other animals). In these they ordinarily catch the *duyung*, although sometimes so many of them are traveling together that they carry away the nets with them, as happened to me one time when I offered to fish with them. Having set the nets in the feeding grounds of the *duyung*, so many clogged the nets that they carried them off without the fishermen being able to do anything. They were never seen again.

They also catch them with three-pronged fish spear or *buntal[s]*;²⁷ there are many natives very skilled in this procedure. However, when this harpoon wounds the ray before the fish has eaten, it is difficult to pursue because the little vessels which carry fishermen are taken along after it like rockrose [hay]. At times it is necessary to cut the cord lest

perezcan; pero, cuando está harto, después de haber pacido a su satisfacción, está más pesado y se cansa presto, que parece había de ser al revés, pero esto enseña acá la experiencia.

De otros géneros de fisgas de muchos hierros, o puntos harpeadas todas, usan para otros peces menores y para tortugas, aunque las muy grandes se resisten mucho si el harpón no es bueno y la cuerda con que ya atado muy fuerte. Vengamos y a tratar de ellas.

they be pulled out to sea and perish. But when it is hooked sometime after having fed to its satisfaction, it is heavier and tires quickly. It seems like the reverse should be true, but this is what experience teaches here.

The other types of harpoons with many hooks or barbed points they use for other smaller fish and for turtles. However, the largest of these struggle successfully, if the harpoon is not good and the cord with which it is tied is not strong. We come now to discuss these.

Chapter 16

ANNOTATIONS

¹ The 'labin' in the *labinduyung* is derived from the word *labi*: greater, better or more. *Labi nga maayu*; *Labi na sadtu*, the meaning, in general, is that it is better than this; something more, something that exceeds like *Naglabi*. *Linalabian*, *napalabi*, to surpass, to go over and beyond; to excell, to advance – *An sugu sa Dios kun an iya buut amuy palabian ta sa ngatanan*. This *palabian* is future tense. In Cebu it is used as adverb. *Mahagugma ka sa Dios, palabiun sa ngatanan*, vel, *labi*" Sánchez, *op. cit.*

Tramp's entry agrees well with Sánchez – *labi*: all the more; especially; much better. He goes further and gives the following examples of composites: *labikahalabá*, longest; *labikaharáyu*, furthest; *labikamaáram*, omniscient; all knowing; *labikamaráut*, worst; *labigamahánan*, omnipotent; all-powerful; *labína*, especially; *labína kay*, mainly; *labipaláran*, fortunate. *Op. cit.*, p. 217.

² *Bugsanga*. A tail of a large fish. Perhaps, it is derived from the Bisayan word *bugsang*, which means to wound, to injure, to hurt; to strike; to run a knife through. It is the same as *bunu*, *bunkul*, *bugsangun*, *bunkulun*, *bunun*, *bugsaran*. *Binugsang ku dida sa uma ining babuy*. Sánchez [1711], *op. cit.*

³ *Tagdangan*. The word may be derived from *dangan*: a fish that enters the corral; *sabo*, *toloy* are the same. *Danganan an punut*, or *pansag*. *Nagdadanga an isda*; *Dinanganan na kami sin madamu nga isda*. *Madamu an nanangan kay baha*. *Kadanganun*, idle, lazy, slothful; idler, loafer, lazy individual.

⁴ *Pakangan*: A cylindrical fish; it is edible. De la Rosa-Alcázar [1914], *op. cit.*, p. 427, *Suppl.* This term may be derived from the word *pakang*, *pakangun* or *pakngun*: a mace (weapon); war club; flax or hemp brake (an instrument). Perhaps, its snout resembles this?"

Tramp, again, gives this entry for *pakáng*: to beat clothes with a stick; a bat; bludgeon; club; laundry stick; mace; mallet; truncheon. *Op. cit.*, p. 314.

⁵ A swordfish.

⁶ More properly: *ronfea bisacuta*: a broadsword.

⁷ A Spanish phrase for 'a club of Hercules'. This is a spiny tree, *zanthoxylum clava-herculis* of southeastern United States; it has clusters of small greenish-yellow flowers [from the spiny club of Hercules].

⁸ *Ihu*: Large and carnivorous fish. De la Rosa-Alcázar [1914], *op. cit.*, p. 167, *Suppl.* This is a dogfish or a small shark, *pating*. Sánchez [1711], *op. cit.* Certainly, Tramp gives it in his entry simply as a shark. *Op. cit.*, p. 206.

⁹ Or *sasawahun*, *sasuhun* – A large snake. *Ginsawa*, to be eaten by the *sawa*, *sasauhun*, *dadawihun*, *sinasawa*, *dinawi*, *baga dinawi sin sawa*. However *sinawa* is a type of *ubi*, a root-crop. Sánchez, *op. cit.*

Tramp, again, describes it as a boa-constrictor, which it is; or a python. *Op. cit.*, p. 392.

Sawa: bua; A very large snake whose length reaches some thirty feet; the color of its skin varies a lot but always blended in beautiful showy hues. It is not poisonous but has enough strength to over-power a karabaw. Its excrement is medicinal.

¹⁰ *Pait* not *paet* as it is commonly spelled everywhere. Sánchez has it correctly spelled as *pait* or *mapait*: something bitter. *Kapait*: bitterness, grief, sorrow. *Pait sini nga bunga!*

¹¹ An oven shovel, as it was used in bakeries all over Spain during Alcina's time.

¹² *Lubarug*. Unable to locate this word, but if it is derived from *barug*, *barugun* or *bargun*, then the meaning is this: stakes or poles of cane or reed or *bagakay* or bamboo for making a fish corral or the entire poles or canes. *Barugan ta an oma sining mga kahuy, kun kawayan. Magburug kita sining kawayan.* Sánchez [1711], *op. cit.*

Tramp has this meaning for *barug*: a frightened person; a fence stake; to frighten the birds. *Op. cit.*, p. 41. It does not fit Alcina's description.

¹³ *Bufeos*. Dolphin; cetacean (Cf. *Diccionario de la lengua*, a-guapatarra, p. 219.

¹⁴ This is a Spanish word for tuna, tunny fish and as Alcina states, it is *lumud*, in Bisayan.

¹⁵ Both, the *Copia Naval* manuscript and the *Muñoz Text* have it as *lomhor*; surely it should read *lumud* and Sánchez describes it as tuna, or a species of fish. Sánchez [1711], *op. cit.*

Lumud: Big fish of dark body and somewhat whitish, with long fins. They move together. It does not swim straight, but moving up and down. It ejects water when it surfaces. De la Rosa-Alcázar [1914], *op. cit.*, p. 426, *Suppl.*

¹⁶ *Bancoles-Bankules*. A certain fish which is called *bonito*

¹⁷ *Pagui. Pagi*. The manuscript text have *paguis*, but *pagi* is proper and more acceptable. It is described by Sánchez as a rayfish or a skate. There are various kinds. *Baugun*, because it is said, it jumps like flying fish. *Kilkigan*, a kind of rayfish with hard skin. *Diri usapusap, diri masarapsu in panit.*

Baugun comes, perhaps, from *baug*: soft, mild, gentle, bland; something like a ripe fruit. The synonyms are *tanug*, *taug*, *banug* and mean the same.

The authors de la Rosa-Alcázar offer us a very interesting and a very lengthy description of this fish. *Pagi*: There are many varieties of this fish. They are the following: *pagi nga banugun*. This fish is black. The meat is also black. The skin soft. It jumps to a certain height. It has a sharp pointing tail and the head is like the one of a hawk.

Pagi nga dahunan: this fish is color black, with a kind of leaves in the tail and a sharp point at the base of the tail. The skin of the back is strong and rough. It is used to clean and also to soften wood drying it before.

Pagi nga mamituun: This fish has its back red, with blue spots; its skin is soft.

Pagi nga manumbaga: This fish has black, cylindrical body; the meat is white, the tail long with a poisonous sharp point at the base.

Pagi nga mantihan: This fish is black in color, of big head, with a sharp point in the tail.

Pagi nga pirisan: This fish has black and white spots on the shoulders; the skin is soft, with a sharp point in the tail.

Pagi nga pungsuan: This fish has the back white with a sharp point; the skin is hard and rough.

Pagi nga saranga: This fish is black; it seems as if it has two heads.

Pagi nga susun: This fish has the back black and rough, without any sharp point in the tail.

Some of these fish have wide bodies and when grown up they have different name.

The *manumbaga*: When grown up is called *bagtaw* and has rounded body.

The *banugun* is called *tupang*, and its body seems to be square.

The *mantihan* is called *manona*.

The *saranga* does not change its name.

The *pirisan* is called *puludsun*, and its body is cylindrical.

The *dahunan* is called *ularan*.

The *mamituun*, when still small is called *kuyampaw*.

The *pungsuan* does not change its name and its body is cylindrical.

The *Susun* does not become big and its body is like a triangle.

Rarely are these fish fat. What the Bisaya like most is the liver, when color white, because then the fish is fatter.

The Bisayans prepare in two different ways these fish: preparing the *pagbakhaw* and the *paglabug*. The *pagbakhaw* is done grating the red bark of the tree called *bakhaw*; the meat and the white liver of the *pagi* is well minced and is well mixed with that bark, mixing vinegar and olorous spices. Thus prepared after a few hours, it is eaten with gusto by the Bisayans. The *paglabug* is prepared boiling before the meat of the *pagi*, then it is rubbed and is mixed with the liver and the olorous spices to be able to eat it. De la Rosa-Alcázar [1914], *op. cit.*, p. 427, *Suppl.*

¹⁸ Tramp has this entry in his new *Waray Dictionary* as *saranga*: forked; to branch out. *Ibid.*, p. 391. However, Alcina gives us a lead in the text by referring to it as a manta; this, in turn, is: any of several fish for the family of *mobulidae*, having large, extremely flattened bodies with wing-like pectoral fins; known as devil-fish or manta-ray.

Sánchez has the entry *sarang*, *pasasasarangun*, or *pasasagngun*, meaning to shed blood like from a spiny lobster. Sánchez, *op. cit.* Seemingly, a species of rayfish or mantas, perhaps.

¹⁹ *Bisul*. It is very clear in Tramp's entry, *bisul*: the sharp stinging prick, prickle or prong of some certain kinds of fish; sting. *Op. cit.*, p. 52.

Bisul: Sharp point of certain fish. — v. to attack or wound with it. De la Rosa-Alcázar [1914], *op. cit.*, p. 49.

²⁰ Sánchez has an entry under *garagara*: which refers to the beginnings of Lent or *Sa garagara pa sa Cuaresma*. 2. *Garagara itun bingusay kun gabi nga бага kalayo, kun an isda nga malagiu nagagaragara man*. Could *galagalas* be a Spanish term for dressing up or decorating?

²¹ *Ponsoan*. Unable to find this term in the dictionaries. There is a word in Sánchez *punsu* or *tipunsu*, but with a completely different meaning.

²² Or *kilkig* as the manuscripts have it: to grate or to rasp or to scrape. *An panit sa pagi, igquiquilig sa tambal*. Sánchez [1711], *op. cit.* Perhaps, the meaning here that the skin of the *pagi* can be used as sandpaper or a scraper?

Surely, Tramp has this word in his entries and my guess was correct: *kilkig*: a rayfish skin used as a rasper. *Op. cit.*, p. 104.

Quilquig or better in Bisayan: *kilkig*: To rasp, to scrape the wood with the skin of the fish called *pagi*. s. The skin of the *pagi*, used to scrape the wood or anything else. De la Rosa-Alcázar [1914], *op. cit.*, p. 261.

²³ Cf. note n. 17 for description.

²⁴ In Tramp we have it given as *bitúun*: a star; orb; rayed badge; celestial luminous body; to shine. *Ibid.*, p. 53.

Sánchez gives it as *bituun*: a star. *Bituunun an langit. Namimituun na kaayu an langit*. Also, *bituun* is a marine tree which give a fruit like *bonete* [bonnet, reticulum] or starfish? Sánchez, *op. cit.*

²⁵ *Banugun* or *banug*, as Alcina states, or *bagnun*: a sparrow-hawk, certainly. *Baga kanan banug man iadtu kulumu*. 2. This is one species of smallfish, known by another name and called *mangnay* or *tangbali*. 3. This is a species of *pagi* or rayfish called *banagun*. However, *binanug* is a certain root crop and a species of *ubi*. Finally, it is also a kind of dance for women: *magbanug*, or *magkigal*. *Nagbanug siya*. This is danced with extended arms, resembling the wings of the *gavilan* or sparrow-hawk when in flight.

Banugun: A fish of red color, round body, with tail and poisonous sharp points. De la Rosa-Alcázar [1914], *op. cit.*, p. 424, *Suppl.*

²⁶ *Panamaw*: A large net of this name — v. To fish with this net. *Ibid.*, p. 235.

Panamaw is an Island. We know that this is the ancient name for Biliran Island, situated in the northern part of Leyte, where there is found much sulfur (*azufre*).

²⁷ A three-pronged fish spear or trident; a fishgig. *Namumuntal*, to fish with a trident or fish spear. *Buntalun mu iadtung isa, babuy*, etc. *Bubunun mo. Pamumuntalun. Waray impamumuntal, kundi ining bulus*.

Buntal: A harpoon of two prongs.. — v. To wound with the same. De la Rosa-Alcázar [1914], *op. cit.*, p. 66.