

Alisa (Panett) Kopu's letter to Joel Bradshaw undated from late July 1976.

Typewritten original transcribed in italics. (See image below.)

Retranscribed, glossed, and translated by Joel Bradshaw in August 2019.

Binga tupe denga mr Joel bBradshw

Biṅa tupe deṅa Mr Joel Bradshaw

talk short to Mr J. B.

'Short message to Mr Joel Bradshaw'

Tawiti babamo anoma su temi tato manu bada bamo na.

Tawiti RED-big truly su temi tato manu bada bamo na.

bellypain big very to time that.2 which gathering big REL

'Very sad about [missing] the time of that [near you] big party.'

aija ele ulapa baluga umi

aiya ele u-lapa baluga u-mi

2s seem 2s-hit baluga 2s-dwell

'It seems you were dancing the baluga [singsing]'

ta lawa teteu gaba-gaba tipeka aija kote, nomba mainama.

ta lawa teteu gabagaba ti-peka aiya kote, nomba mainama.

that people village many 3p-fall 2s not thing different

'when many village people didn't [just] fall for you; it was something else!'

itabinga anoma ewa tema paytila kapingi aija.

i-tabiṅa anoma ewa tema ni-patila ni-kapiṅi aiya

3s-near truly woman one IR3s-jump IR3s-clasp you

'A woman very nearly jumped up and hugged you.'

Sole wa tawiti bamo ingo money mo wati mou

Sole wa tawiti bamo iṅgo money mo wati mou

sorry and bellypain big COMP money or stone none

'Very sorry and sad that I had no money or stones [cash?]

woya te wauwa kote

woya te wa-uwa kote

1s TOP 1s-go.to.2 not

'so I could not come [to where you are]'

wai ippai tawiti aija iu atuandi poromisi na

wa i-pai tawiti aiya i-u atuwa-ndi poromisi na?

and 3s-do bellypain 2s 3s-become 1+2du-GEN promise of

'and did it make you sad about our (dual) promise?'

Jaosa Joel aijako tawiti numi wiyama?

? J. aiya-ko tawiti nu-mi wiyama

story 2s-DIM bellypain FUT2s-dwell well

'?, Joel, buddy, sorry, will you be alright?'

upaka, ujongo Bada tatona kaitenda, wija mo maja.

U-paka? U-yonṅo bada tatona kaitenda, wiya mo maya?

2s-how 2s-see party that.2 how, good or bad?
 'What about you? How did you regard that (near you) party, as good or bad?'

ingo wija go nuso ailau nima najango
 ingo wiya go, nu-so ailau ni-ma na-yanjo
 if good then, IR2s-stab treeleaf IR3s-come IR1s-see
 'If it was good, then write a letter to me to read (about it)'

wa amundi tua-tua Badanteteu na nima nalongoni.
 wa amu-ndi tuwatuwa bada teteu na ni-ma na-loŋoni.
 and 2p-GEN story party village of IR3s-come IR1s-hear
 'and your (plural) stories of the village party for me to hear.'

Wa ili binga te sixty Kina manu waki amula Loto mombi muwa na.
 wa ili biŋa te sixty kina manu wa-ki amula Loto mu-ambi mu-uwa na
 and also talk one 60K which 1s-put 2p Loto 2p-hold 2p-go.to.2 REL
 'And another thing: 60 kina that I gave you and Loto to take [with you]'

Mombi mo mubaga bola one hundred kina eta walongoni.
 Mu-ambi mo mu-baga bola one hundred kina eta wa-loŋoni.
 2p-hold or 2p-buy pig 100K that 1s-hear
 'You got or bought a pig for 100K is what I heard.'

Joel pasin motai wija anoma ingo utamu kolapa
 Joel pasin motawi wiya anoma iŋgo u-tamu kolapa
 J. (TP) custom good truly say 2s-join youngmen
 'Joel, [it's a] very good custom to join the young men'

iu nomba ka woya wa lauwa
 i-u nomba ka singsing and wardance
 3s-become thing like song and wardance
 'for things like singing and dancing'

ta i lawa Lae na mayango wija anoma.
 ta i lawa Lae na ma-yanjo wiya anoma
 that 1pexcl people Lae of 1pexcl-see good truly
 'that we Lae people see as very good.'

tako. aiyako abo.
 tako aiya-ko abo.
 enough 2s-DIM goodbye
 'That's all, buddy, goodbye.'

nuyongo towambana bamo etato a peka lapa aiya
 Nu-yoŋgo towambana bamo etato a ni-peka ni-lapa aiya
 IR2s-see night big that.2 may IR3s-fall ir3s-hit 2s
 'Look out. That big night there (in the village where you are) may fall and hit you,

gonuyongo.
 go nu-yoŋgo.
 then IR2s-see
 'so lookout.'

ALS ALISA KOPO, PAGINI

ALS Alisa Kopu, Papua New Guinea

Alisa Kopo

Binga tupe denga mr Joel bBradshw

Tawitibabamo anoma su temi tato manu bada bamo na, aija ele
ulapa baluga umi ta lawa teteu gaba-gaba tipeka aija kote,
nomba mainama, itabinga anoma ingo ewa tema paytila

kapingi aija, sole wa tawiti bamo ingo money mo wati
mou woja te wauwa kote wai i pai tawiti aija iu atuandi
peromisi na ? Jaosa joel aijako tawiti nuni wijana ?

upaka, ujongo Bada tatona kaitenda wija mo maja, ingo
wija go nuso ailau nima najango wa amundi tua-tua [Badanteteu] na)
nima nalongoni. Wa ili binga te sixty Kina manu waki amula Loto
mombi ^{mawa} mua na, mombi mo mubaga bola one hundred kinna eta walongo
ni Joel pasin motai wija anoma ingo utamu kolapa iu nomba
ka woya wa lauwa ^{na} ta I lawa Lae na mayango wiya anoma, tako.

aiyako abo nuyongo towambana bamo etato A peka
lapa aiya gonuyongo.

ALS ALISA KOPO
PAGINI