

## Q26. Lontara

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Buginese is a language of the southern region of Sulawesi, the third largest island of Indonesia. It is written using a script called Lontara. The script's name comes from the Malay word for 'palm', *lontar*. The long, thin leaves of the palm were once used to create scroll-like manuscripts.

Here is a passage from the epic Indonesian creation myth *Sureq Galigo*, written in Buginese using the Lontara script.



Here is the same passage, translated into English:

*There is no one to call the gods Lord, or to offer praise to the underworld. Why Lord don't you have one of your children descend, and incarnate him on the earth; do not leave the world empty and the earth uninhabited. You are not a god, Lord, if*

*there are no humans under the heavens, above the underworld, to call the gods Lord.*

**B1.** The Buginese text of the passage has been chopped up into several pieces and scrambled up. These lines are pieces of the same passage in Buginese, but written in our familiar Latin alphabet instead of the Lontara script. Your task is to unscramble them: figure out the correct order for the fragments A to J. Note that sentences E and F appear twice in the text, but here have different punctuation. (5 points)

- A. *ajaq naonro lobbang linoé*
- B. *lé namasuaq mua na sia*
- C. *makkatajangeng ri atawareng.*
- D. *mappaleq wali ri pérétiwi.*
- E. *mattampa puang lé ri batara,*
- F. *mattampa puang lé ri batara.*
- G. *ri awa langiq, lé ri ménéqna pérétiwié,*
- H. *tabareq-bareq ri atawareng,*
- I. *tammaga puang muloq séwa rijajiammu,*
- J. *teddéwata iq, puang, rékkua masuaq tau*

**B2.** Translate these English words into Buginese. Write your translations with the *Latin alphabet* only; you do not need to use the Lontara script for this question: (5 points)

- (a) Lord
- (b) underworld
- (c) earth

**B3.** Some Buginese words and (just for your information) their meanings are given below, in the Latin alphabet. Write each word using the *Lontara script*. (10 points)

- (a) *Sulawesi* (an island of Indonesia)
- (b) *La Galigo* (another name for Sureq Galigo)
- (c) *tompoq tikkaq* ('land of the rising sun')
- (d) *Amparita* (a town in Sulawesi)
- (e) *Tenriabéng* (a character in the Sureq Galigo story)