

#TANAG

i

Ang sabi mo, “Hinagpis!”
Hawak-hawak ang two-piece
Chicken meal.

ii

Dama ko ang masakit
Sa tanong mo kung bakit
Sila’t kayo.

iii

Mistaken identity:
Di pala g’wapo. Witty
Sa dilim.

iv

Pag-ibig na never end-
Ing: nagmula sa wrong send,
Sinagot, ring.

v

Sinta, ika’y sorbetes
At ako’y may d’yabetes
So huwag na.

Labalot

I'm prom di land op plod en pire,
Da weyder's cold en hot.
But now ay liv in yurem pire
Isno ay labalot.

Da goods I boat ay ship dem hom
In balikbayan box.
Someni tae giv, hu por prom?
All dem inaaanaks.

I wan tae try por payb-siks hir
But och, my istayl dey cramp.
Nid brayt aydeeya tae mak apir,
Sobrayt liek labalamp.

I'm prom di land op plod en pire,
Wan dey I'm bisit but may binat.
Ay lab isno in yurem pire
In winterclothes I'm berihat.

Ochone¹

Am nae unhappie,
but in me hert
a mad desyre
for a soun
after a dream wher
I couldna see
but herd agayne
'... is mo mhac 'na leum
le aoibhneas,
chi mi 'na shuilean-san
greadhnachas gach
geamhradh a thainig
a riamh air
mo dhaoine. . .'²

Tok ti me, lad,
I saed tae him,
tok tae
yer Da. Wha'
d'yi call yirself,
an he saed. . .
'Ruaraidh, tha's me
tokn, anae ka ba, who're ye
who doant no
how tae tok?'

1 From the Scottish Gaelic for "alas".

2 Relineated lines from "Troimh Uinneig a' Chithe
["When the Fine Show is Falling"] by Ruaraidh
MacThòmais (Derick Thomson) in Donald MacAulay, ed.,
Modern Scottish Gaelic Poems (New Directions, 1976)
149. The author translated it as "...while my son leaps
with joy, / I see in his eyes the elation / that every winter
brought to my people..."

PAOLO MANALO teaches English, literature, and creative
writing at the UP Department of English & Comparative
Literature.