

# E'e i Koringkoneno

## A short story in the Kulisusu language of Southeast Sulawesi, Indonesia

This brief Kulisusu folktale about a source of water encapsulates the same themes as the Biblical account of the Garden of Eden: paradise, a commandment given, the commandment broken resulting in paradise lost, and finally the hope of paradise restored.

	<b>Kulisusu</b>	<b>Indonesian</b>	<b>English</b>
1	Daho e'e inimpia.	Dulu ada sebuah sumur air.	Long ago there used to be a source of water.
2	E'e a'iso, imisiu.	Air itu manis.	That water was sweet.
3	E'e misiu a'iso, ngeeno e'e i Koringkoneno.	Air manis itu disebut air di Koringkoneno.	That sweet water was named the water at Koringkoneno.
4	Io adatino sara ri'ai, ke daho io inawano raeati hina imentela, ndopolele i sara.	Menerut adat di sini, kalau rakyat menemukan peristiwa yang luar biasa, harus dilapor kepada petugas pemerintah.	Now the custom of the governing officials here was that if anything out of the ordinary was encountered by the people, they were to inform the officials.
5	Io raeati ndopo'alamo e'e a'iso sabotolo.	Suatu hari, rakyat mengambil sebotol air itu.	One day the people fetched a bottle of that sweet water.
6	Sabucuno, i sala iawa'indamo cina mo'apa.	Setelah itu, dalam perjalanan mereka menemukan seorang perempuan yang kosong di dalam.	On the way home, an empty woman met them.
7	Ipomonimo, bei pondo'u.	Dia minta minum.	She asked to have a drink.
8	Sa'arino mondo'u, e'e a'iso imosiomo.	Sesudah minum, air itu menjadi kering.	When she had finished drinking, that water dried up.

9	Ikoma'ana, e'e a'iso tomino cina mo'apa.	Maknanya, perempuan kosong itu adalah pemilik air itu.	It meant that water was now the property of the empty woman.
10	E'e a'iso, ke ngkangka'ai dumaamawao mpendua, bei koguna'akono.	Kalau sekarang ada yang menemukan lagi air itu, itu akan berguna bagi dia.	Today if anyone finds that water again, it will be very valuable to them.
11	Lapasimo.	Selesai.	The end.

### Notes concerning the text

1. *e'e* literally 'water,' in context it can also mean spring, well, river, pool, lake, etc.
4. *sara* 'the governing officials,' *raeati* 'the public, the governed.'
6. *mo'apa* 'empty,' specifically, empty of contents but having a normal outward appearance, for example a nut with no meat inside its shell. This empty woman was a supernatural being.
8. The implied information here is that instead of allowing the empty woman to drink, the people should have reported her to the authorities. Their failure in this matter allowed the empty woman to take control over the water.

### Information about the text

Related by La Bura to David Mead in February 2003 while La Bura was on what turned out to be his deathbed.

Transcribed and translated by David Mead, February 2003.

Interlinearized by David Mead in April 2005, with revisions September 2013.

### Information about the author

La Bura (1923–2003), a native speaker of Kulisusu, was born in Bone Rombo village, northeastern Buton Island, southeastern Sulawesi. At the time that he told this story, La Bura was 89 years old.



< La Bura, February 2002

### Interlinearized text

1. *Daa-ho e'e inimpia.*  
be-3SG.ACC water previously
  2. *E'e a'iso, i=misiu.*  
water that 3SG.NOM=sweet
  3. *Ngee-no e'e misiu a'iso, e'e i Koringkoneno.*  
name-3SG.GEN water sweet that water at Koringkoneno
  4. *Io adati-no sara ri'ai,*  
ART custom-3SG.GEN governing\_official here
- ke daa-ho io in-awa-no raeati hina=i mentela,*  
if be-3G.ACC ART PASS-encounter-3SG.GEN public NEG-3SG.NOM ordinary
- ndo=po-lele i sara.*  
3PL.NOM=ANTIP-inform at governing\_official

5. *Io raeati ndo=po-'ala-mo e'e a'iso sa=botolo.*  
 ART public 3PL.NOM=ANTIP-fetch-COMPL water this one=bottle
6. *Sabucuno, i sala i=awa-'inda-mo cina mo'apa.*  
 Thereupon at path 3SG.NOM=encounter-3PL.ACC-COMPL female contentless
7. *I=pomoni-mo, be=i po-ndo'u.*  
 3SG.NOM=request-COMPL FUT=3SG.NOM ANTIP-drink
8. *Sa='ari-no mo-ndo'u,*  
 when=finish-3SG.GEN PTCP;ANTIP-drink
- e'e a'iso i=mosio-mo.*  
 water that 3SG.NOM=dry-COMPL
9. *I=koma'ana, e'e a'iso tomi-no cina mo'apa.*  
 3SG.NOM-have.meaning water that possession-3SG.GEN female contentless
10. *E'e a'iso, ke ngkaangkaa'ai dumaa um-awa-o mbendua,*  
 water that if at.present arise PTCP-encounter-3SG.ACC again
- be=i koguna-'ako-no.*  
 FUT=3SG.NOM have.use-APPL;BEN-3SG.ACC
11. *Lapasi-mo.*  
 finish-COMPL

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