

Contents

List of Illustrations	vii
‘Tok Oraet’ (from Kayan village)	ix
Note on the Spelling of <i>Kayan na yon</i> Words	xiii
Acknowledgements	xv
 1 INTRODUCTION	 1
Leading into the Field	1
Ethnographic Setting or the Ethnographer’s Sitting	6
Inside Jong’s Head or One Possible History of Kayan	14
 2 THE MYTH OF WEAKAUPYOR	 23
Weakaupyor: The Eggs of the Weakaup-Bird	23
Elements and Comparable Stories	24
Historical Settlement	32
Water and Sound: Spirits, Magic, Medicine	36
 3 CALENDARS – TIME AND SPACE	 43
Calendars and Time	43
Kayan Calendar	48
Seasonal Activities	57
Intermediary I: A Short Excursion to the Stars	62
The Social Mesocosm	68
Water and Place: The Spirits and the Year	76
Landscape: Places in Space	82
The Connection of the Spirit-Mother with Karkar Island	83
Intermediary II: Orientation in Space	87
The Social Macrocosm	94
Calendar Conclusion	104

4	THE KAYAN PERSON	113
	Discussions about Personhood	113
	Intermediary III: The Stories of Jari and Namit	117
	Becoming Human in Kayan	122
	Intermediary IV: The Story of Maumbra	128
	Initiation: Nourishing the <i>Ndurum</i>	131
	Mortuary Rites: Disintegrating the <i>Ndurum</i>	137
	Tuning in and out of Kayan Personhood	148
	The Social Microcosm	155
	Person Conclusion	160
5	COMBINING THE SPHERES	165
6	POSTSCRIPT 2013	171
7	COMPILATION OF EVENTS	175
8	GALLERY OF CONTRIBUTORS	181
9	APPENDICES	201
	I: Weakaupyor	201
	II: Jari	216
	III: Namit	229
	IV: Maumbra	239
	Glossary	251
	References	255
	Index	283