

THE SONG OF THE ARAYO

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'Song of the Arayo' was filmed on Lanyu, a small tropical island located 25 nautical miles off the southeast coast of Taiwan. The island is inhabited by the Malayo-Polynesian Yami (Tao). Every year from around February, the 'Flying Fish Season' begins. For four months, the Yami catch the migratory fish that pass by the island. For the last two months of those four, the Yami use traditional methods to fish for dorado (dolphinfish). In the Yami language, dorado are called 'arayo'. Arayo are thought to be a sacred fish, and the taboos associated with fishing for them are numerous.

Siyapen Makkarash sets out on his first day of fishing for arayo. He uses a flying fish as live bait and rows back and forth, singing to call the arayo over to his boat. Through Siyapen Makkarash's struggle with an arayo, Song of the Arayo gives an insight into the remarkable oceanic culture of the Yami.

This film was screened first at the 40th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Society of Cultural Anthropology in 2006.

Duration: 17min, **Medium:** DV, **Year:** 2006, **Production:** Visual Folklore, **Location:** Lanyu, Taiwan

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