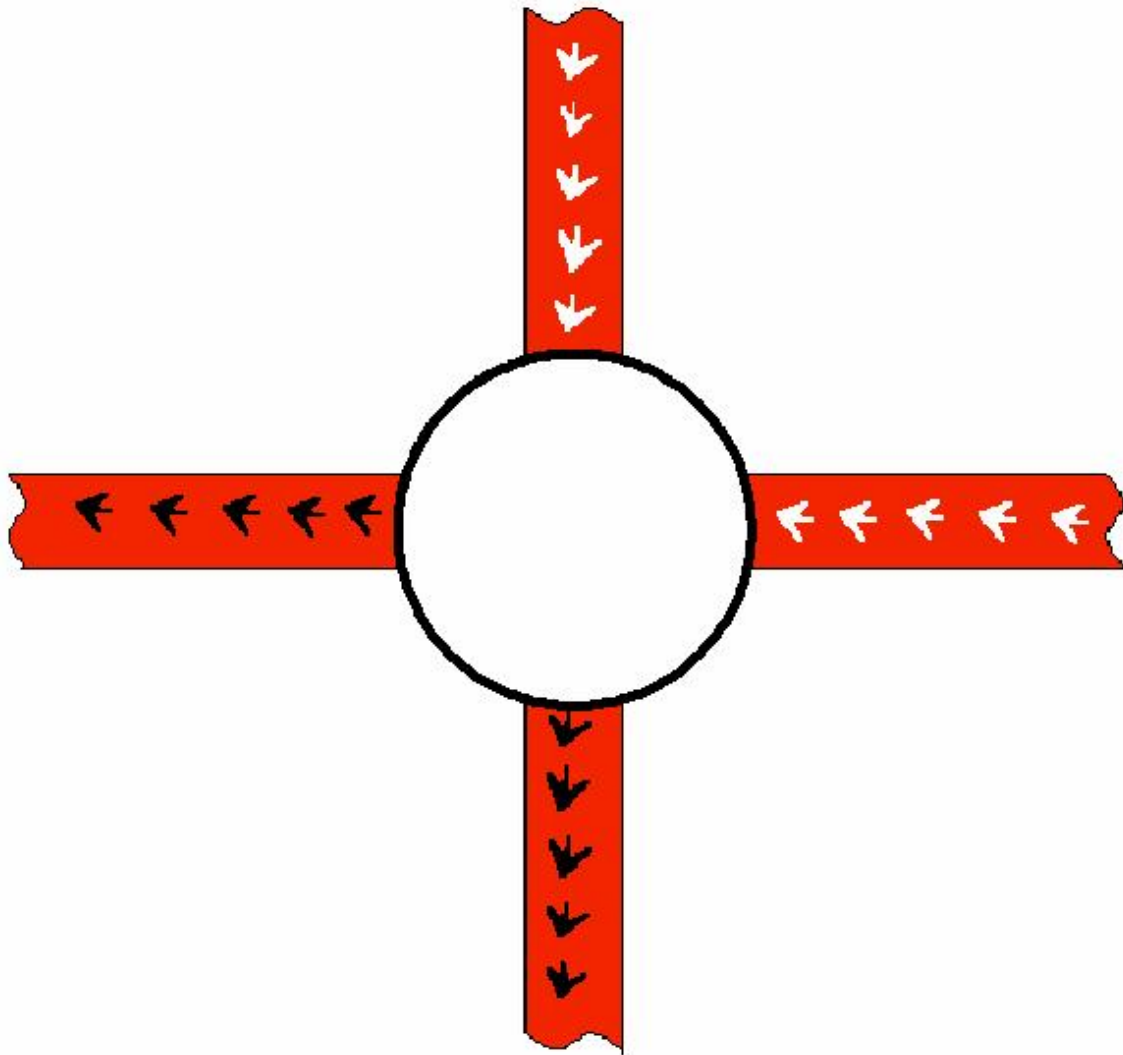


Melṅurr Gapu Dhularrpa Gawiya



Raypirri Nṅarra'ṅur Romgurr Mṅgayakurr

Authorised by: Nupurra, Gawiya, Dhularrpa, Garriyak. Naymil Gamburrtji, Dar'miny, Yanmaḷa. Bulukmana, Yaluwitjiṅu, Nuywarrambarr. Gondarra, Yarrayarmirri, Guyuwu. Naymil Dṅatiwuy, Birrwaṅa, Djurdjurnṅa, Gaḷarrbuṅbuṅ Clan Nations. And also Garriyak Yawurrywurr, Garrawurra, Naḷawurra, Djirrirra, Maṅburrurruwuy.

Dhuwandja mala dhäruk raypirri ga marngithinyaraw, ñunhi dhawaṯṯhun ga märrñur Djirrikayñur ga Dalkarrañur, ga Njorra'ñur. Njunhi ñurrngitj djalkiri dhäruk mala ga mägaya rom.

These words of instruction are for discipline and teaching. They proceed from the märr (the deep-seated political and spiritual authority) of the Djirrikay and Dalkarra (the Dhuwa political leaders and the Yirritja political leaders), and from the Njorra' (the Parliamentary and Judicial sacred chamber of law). These words are from the ñurrngitj (tried and tested law since time immemorial) and from the djalkiri (foundation of the world) which create mägaya rom (peace, harmony and due process of law).

1) Yaka buñu yolñuny murrkay'kuñ. Nhe dhu märram dhägir'yunawuy, bäyarra rom ñunhi märrñur Njorra'ñur ga bulu gurruṯumirriwuñ.

1. Do not murder or cause anyone to die. If you do you will be liable and receive judicial punishment for restitution at law under the Authority of the Njorra' Court, which is also sanctioned by the whole of Yolngu society and by the aggrieved family.

2 a) Njuli dhe waña-monuñu yolñu, nheny ñathil dhu djirra'yun dhärra Makarraṯa, bäyarra nhunapinya dhe waña, ga bäyarra romnha Njarrany' ga Djalkiriny Maḍayin'nha.

2 a) If you are the offending person, you must present yourself for Makarraṯa (judicial penalty of spearing through the thigh), and be put right with the law and thereby satisfy the requirements of the Njorra Court and the foundational laws of (Yolñu) society.

b) Njuli bäyñuny Makarraṯa nheny dhu bäyarra ñula nhaliy mulwaṯṯhu ñunhi ga dhawaṯṯhun romñur maḍayin'ñur, nhokuñ djämapuy ga wuburr'puy.

b) If there is no Makarraṯa (penalty by the spear) you will be required to make full restitution by payment of something of great value that you have sweated over and made with your own hands.

3) Yaka manañi ñula nhä wiripuñuw yolñuw walalañ.

3. Do not steal anything belonging to any other persons

4) Yaka dhe dhu mel-dharañan ñula nhä mala wiripuñuw yolñuw walalañ.

4. You will not desire jealously anything belonging to others.

5) Yaka marramba'yi gurruṯu yätjkurruw yolñuw miyalkku ga dirramuw, dhe

dhu marilil gārri ga mārraṅ dhāgir'yunawuy romṅur Nārra'ṅur ga bulu gurruṭumirriwuṅ.

5. Do not have an incestual relationship with anyone or you will put yourself into dangerous conflict and a position unprotected by law and you will receive judicial punishment from the Nārra' Court and which is sanctioned by the whole of Yolngu society and by the aggrieved family

6) Yaka galṅa-ṅayathul ṅula yolnha yolṅuny ṅunhi dhuṅgarra nyumukuṅiny'mirriṅy, nhe ṅuli yindi dhāgir' mārraṅ romṅur Nārra'ṅur ga gurruṭumirriwuṅ.

6. Do not have sexual relations with any juvenile, or you will receive severe judicial punishment from the Nārra' Court which is also sanctioned by the whole of Yolngu society and by the aggrieved family.

7) Yaka miyalkkuṅ gurruṭuny yapany ga maṅuṭjiyaṅ. Dhuwaliyiny rom ṅunhi yātkurr mirithirr, yātkurr gurrurruk mirithirr. Nhe ṅuli dhāgir' mārraṅ romṅur Nārra'ṅur.

7. Do not accept sexual advances from a woman in a sister relationship to you. To do so is extremely profane, offensive and lacking of all respect. If this occurs you will receive the judicial penalty under the law of the Nārra'.

8) Yaka nhini gi burrpuy' ga nyalmiriy romdhu, nhe bāynha marilil nhunapinya nhe galkanmirr.

8. Do not associate with evil or deceitful practices or you are likely to subject yourself to prosecution from the law or possible retributions from others.

9 a) Yaka yātkurr matha waṅi worru'wurrūṅuw miyalkku ga dirramuw.

b) Yaka biṅdharr'yurr walalany, bili ṅunhiyiny yolṅu walal ṅunhi walal ga ṅayatham Djirrikay ga Dalkarra, ga bulu walal ga ṅayatham māgaya ga burrmidi rom.

9. a) Do not speak offensively about any elders

b) Do not swear at or verbally insult them because our political leaders, the Djirrkay and Dalkarra come from among them. It is they who maintain and uphold our laws of peace and harmony.

10) Yaka warku'yurr ga galŋa-bartjunmaraŋ nhuŋuwuy nhe bāpamirriŋuny ga ŋāndimirriŋuny. Nhe ga ŋayaŋu-midikuyam rom māgaya ga burrimiḍi mārrŋur Njārra'ŋur.

10. Do not ridicule or physically assault your own father or mother or you will violate the peace and harmony flowing from the authority of the Njārra' parliament.

11) Yaka dhā-wirrikiyi ga goŋ-wirrikiyi marrtji waŋi ga ŋayathul ŋula nhā mala nhokalaŋaw gurruṭumirriw walalaŋ ga wiripuŋuw yolŋuw walalaŋ.

11. Do not speak or act carelessly or meddle with the affairs of your relatives or any other people.

12) Yaka guykthurr mārrlil maḍayin'lil ga murrutjuwallil ga barrpa'lil. Ga bulu bundurrlil ŋunhi rakunygal gurruṭumirriwal. Nhe ŋuli bāyarran nhunapinya nhe dhurrwaran-maraŋgunhamirr Njārrany' Dalkarranhany ga Djirrikaynhan.

12. Do not use the names of the inner workings of the Madayin Law or those names associated with a corpse when swearing an oath or issuing a legal sanction. Furthermore, do not do this using the Bundurr name of any recently deceased relative. If you do this you will be required to make recompense for your transgression to the political leaders of the Njārra' parliament.

13) Yaka nhe dhu mirri-gurruapan waŋa buthuruŋur wāwa'mirriŋuwal Yapany gurruṭuny. Nhe dhu ŋayaŋu-midikuman romnha Njārrany' ga djalkiriny maḍayin'nha.

13. You will not speak in the hearing of the brother things which pertain to his sister, which are of a sacred or intimate nature (that will cause him to feel angry, or ashamed), or else you will desecrate the law of the Njārra' Parliament, and the foundational Madayin Law, established from the creation of the world.

14) Yaka nyāl'yurr lakaraŋ ga marilil gārrinyamaraŋ wiripuny yolŋuny.

14. Do not make false statements that cause trouble for others.

15) Yaka warku'yurr ga gulkthurr maḍayin bathi ŋunhi dhulmu-mulka ga waŋa wāyuk. Nhe ŋuli dhāgir' mārraŋ mārrŋur Njārra'ŋur ga bulu Dalkarra ga Djirrikaywuŋ.

15. Do not speak against or in any way desecrate the Madayin bathi (this string bag represents the constitution, womb or body of the Madayin Law). It is the dhumul-mulka (crest and seal) and has the waŋa wayuk (acts of law which are a tangible record of the laws of the

parliament). If you do this you will receive the full penalty sanctioned by the Njarrä' parliament and by the Dalkarra and Djirrikay political leaders.

16) Yaka luku-wapthurr wänjalil ga yirralkalil wiripunjuwal bäpurru'wal ga ringitjkal dhä-nänhamiriw. Nhe njuli bäyarra njula nhaliynha yindiynha balanydjay.

16. Do not trespass on the land or the yirralka estate of another clan or Ringitj nation state without permission or you will make recompense by payment of a large sum.

17) Yaka worrk dhungur'yurr wiripunjuwal yirralkanjur wänjanjur dhä-nänhamiriw. Nhe njuli bäyarra walalany balanydja gurrupul.

17. Do not set fire to the worrk (the grass and bush land used for the harvesting of marsupials and reptiles) on another person's estate without permission. If you do you will make payment for restitution to them.

18) Yaka dhe dhu djaw'yun njula nhä girri' ga mulwaṭ dhä-nänhamiriw.

18. You will not steal or remove any valuable object or item without permission.

19) Yaka dhe dhu djuwu' gurrupan wiripunjuny bäpurruny ga ringitjnha dhä-nänhamiriw, njula nhä mala mulwaṭ balanydjamirr mak dhulmu-mulka mak wäyuk waṇa mak wänja yirralka yäkumirr.

19. You will not give a contractual agreement to another clan or Ringitj nation state without permission (from the proper authority) that involves a payment of great value, such as a dhumul-mulka (clan nation title deeds), or wäyuk waṇa (objects of statue law), or parcels of land and or sea that are of special significance.

20) Yaka dhe dhu goṇ-mangimangimirr ga goṇ-mangu'mirr galka, mak dhä-nyira'mirr goṇ-nal'yun maḍayin'lil Rangalil ga märrlil Njarrä'lil, dhe njuli yindi dhägir' märraṇ Dalkarrawuṇ ga Djirrikaywuṇ.

20. You will not utilize the tools of sorcery or act with murderous intent to kill or inflict harm or try to put your hands upon any sacred objects of the Njarrä' Parliament. If you do this you will receive severe judicial punishment from the Dalkarra and Djirrikay political leaders.

21) Njuli dhe goṇ-bulmanmirr yaka galkal milkuṇ nhänjiniṇ'kuny. Yuwalk yan biyak dṛramuthiny.

21. If you are of age and initiated into the law (signified by the right to carry a spear thrower) do not display an attitude of carelessness or act in an irresponsible manner. Act in accordance with your responsibilities of manhood.

22) Yaka dhä-wapthurr wañi ga lakarañ bukmakkal yäku nungat ñunhi djalkiri maḍayin'thu ga ñayatham. Ga bulu girri' mala nungat ñunhi ga ñorra märrñur Rangañur.

22. Do not transgress the law by breaking the confidences told to you. Do not speak publicly concerning the restricted names which refer to our foundational law or to the restricted objects that symbolize our law.

23) Ñuli dhu buwaṭa dhawatthun borumñu, wäña guwatjman marrtji. Yaka nhe dhu lay-dälthirr, ñayañuy dhapinyay gurrupul ñanya girri' ga wiripu ñula nhä balanydja, bili ñunhiyiny nhokuñ mulwaṭnha bala märrlil Njorra'il.

23. When the time comes for collection of revenue for the Njorra Parliament, do not be selfish but give with a generous heart, because your payment of goods or other valuable items will add to the status and authority of the Njorra' Parliament.

(The last stage of the parliamentary procedure is signified by the ceremony associated with the appearance of Buwaṭa (Plains Bustard). As this ceremony approaches the dwelling place of each family group, various item of value are handed to the officials of the Parliament. The collected revenue from all the people will be subsequently distributed to the member Bapurru clans of the Riñgitj nation state, and this will add to their sense of solidarity and unity within the Nation State alliance.)

24) Bukmak bapurru ga riñgitj ga matha mala dhu waña-lupthun Njorra'ñur, bäyñu dhu ñula yol wañany yolñu dhuḍi'yun. Yaka galña-midikuyañ Njarrany', bili ñunhi rom mäḡaya ga dhäpirrk.

24. All clans and Riñgitj alliances and all language groups will wäna-lupthun (ceremonially assent to the law). No one is exempt from this requirement of law. Do not desecrate or defy the Njorra' parliament, because due process of law has been followed to bring about peace and order consistent with our foundational law.

25) Ñuli nhe dhu gärru wiripuñuwal bapurruwal yirralkalil ga ñangi'yun ganguri walalañ ñunhi dhulñuñur gäruñur, ñurruñuny ñathil marrtji ga dhä-ñäku walalany, yurr dhuwal gam', märrañuny ñathany ga balayi ñiyarrñ'tja lämu-nhirrpulyi wiripuñuw dhunḡarraw.

25. If you are going to enter another clan's estate and dig out yams from their Dhulñu and Gärul (areas for the propagation of root vegetable), first ask permission of that clan. Further to this, when you get the food replant the top shooting portion for harvest in future years.

26) Yaka miyapunu märrañ wiripuñuwal baṭpañur, dhä-ñaku ñathil ga yurnnha märrañ.

26. Do not take marine turtles from another's Baṭpa (the nurturing and harvesting area for turtles). Ask first before you take them.

27) Yaka guya män̄nu wiripuñuwal marrandil̄jur dhä-ñanhamiriw, ñañ'thurr ñathil ñurruñuny.

27. Do not take fish from another's Marrandil (fish breeding and conservation area) without permission. Ask first!

28) Yaka miyapunu märrañ wiripuñuwal mewiyal̄jur, dhä-ñaku ñathil ñurruñuny bala yurnha märrañuny.

28. Do not take without permission turtle eggs from another's mewiyal (hatchery area), Ask first before taking.

29) Yaka nhe dhu miyalk ga goñ-yuṭa ga djamarrkuḷi gārri ga mel-ñalyurr märrlil Ñärra'lil, nhe ñuli marilil gārri ñalapaḷmirriwal, ga bulu nhe ñuli mañutji-marangunhamirr gurrupul bāyarra ñula nhän mulwaṭnha mak balanydjan.

29. Neither women nor children nor the uninitiated (in respect to that law) shall enter into or in any way be familiar with the chamber or restricted surrounds of the Ñärra' parliament. If you do this you will incur the wrath of the elders and political leaders and bear the associated consequences. In addition you will be required to make recompense concerning your legal liability by the payment of valuable items.

30) Yaka ñoy-marimirriyañ ga dhärukmirriyañ mokuy bāpurru ñunhi limurr ga ñayatham ga ñamañamayun rom manikaygurr. Bāyñu yan nhe dhu wiripuwurruñ Yolñuw mañutji-dharañan ga dhakañgum mokuy bāpurru, nhe ñuli ñayañu-midikuyañ rom wukindi, gurrurruk ga maḍayin djalkiri.

30. Do not protest or declare dissent or cause dispute at a funeral. Restrain yourselves and work to produce a beneficial outcome. Do not be envious of others and create disharmony at funerals. If you do this you will violate the sacredness and reverence of this holy time and desecrate the foundational Maḍayin Law.

31) Yaka nhe dhu galka-birrka'yun wiripuñuny yolñuny ga bāpurruny ga ringitjnha ñuli dhu ga bāyñuny dhudi-dhäwu ñorra ga mañutji-marñgi yolñu dhu ga nhina.

31. You will not accuse of sorcery another person, clan or clan nation without clear solid evidence supported by eyewitnesses.

32) Yaka nhe dhu gurrupan nula yolnha bāpurruny ga ringitjnha buku-djuwu' matjapala bunharaw yolṅuw ga bāpurruw. Nhe balan bāynha ṅayaṅu-midikumul ga ṅayaṅu-wutthurr ṅunha maḍayin'nha rom ṅunhi ga ṅorra ṅunha Njārra'ṅur ga djalkiriṅur. Nhe balan bāynha mari mārraṅ ga dhāgir'yunawuy rom ṅunhi ga limurruṅ yolṅuw djalkiri rom barranga'yun.

32. Do not give a Matjapala legal contract to another Bāpurru clan or Ringitj nation state for an assassination or conducting a physical attack on another Bāpurru clan. An action like this would desecrate, striking at the very heart of the Madayin Law, the Njārra parliament and the foundational law (from the creation itself). Any person doing so will experience many troubles and receive sanctions at law declared and proclaimed from the foundation of the world.

33) Bukmak yuṭa djamarrkuḷi', miyalk ga ḍirramu ṅunhi ga maḷṅ'thun dhiyal wāṅaṅur mālkmirr, bāpurru'mirr ga ringitjmirr, walal dhu marṅgithirr djalkiriw romgu ṅunhi ga maṅuṭji-lakaram māgaya rom ga burrimiḍi.

33. Everyone from birth who lives by the ways of our community kinship, clan laws and Ringitj nation state laws, they shall learn the ways of the foundational laws of our society and display the way of peace and tranquility by their actions.

34) Yaka nhe dhu ḍirramuy mārr maḍayin'mirriy galṅa-ṅayatham miyalknha ṅunhi ṅayi ga dhuyukurr romgurr marrtji, nhe balan bāynha ṅayaṅu-midikuyan ṅunha maḍayin djalkiri ṅunhi ga ṅorra ṅunha Njārra'ṅur romṅur. Bili walalaṅguny miyalkurruwurrunguny rom mirithirr dharrpal, dhuyu ga maḍayin limurruṅgalnydja yolṅuwalnydja romṅur.

34. No man who has been made strong in his soul through the instruction of the Madayin Law should ever have an intimate relationship with a woman during her time of monthly holiness. Anyone who did would desecrate and offend the Madayin Law of the Njārra' Parliament that has existed from the creation of the world. This is because women's law is extremely sacred. It is holy and paramount to all of our Yolṅu Madayin Law.

35) ṅunhi wāṅa yirralka ṅunhi goṅṅur bāpurru'bāpurruwal ga nula nhā mala ga ṅorra wāṅaṅur nhakun, ṅatha, borum, warrakan, mapu, ga guya, miyapunu ṅunhi ṅurikiyi bāpurruw malaw, yurr djinawa ṅaraka wāṅa mala ṅunhi ga ṅayatham ringitjthu malaṅuy yaka yan waṅganydhu ṅuriṅi bāpurruy, linygu ṅunhi djalkiri maḍayin ga ṅorra mārrṅur ringitjṅur.

35. All the resources on a particular estate (of land and sea), including vegetable foods, fruits, animals and birds, eggs, fish and turtles (all flora, fauna, aquatic life, soils and sands), belongs to the particular Bāpurru clan who holds ownership of that estate. However, the bedrock ownership (including all rocky protusions) resides with the Ringitj clan nations not with the an individual Bāpurru clan, because the foundational Maḍayin Law abides in the heart and soul of the Ringitj clan nation.

(A Ringitj clan nation or nation state is made up of several Bāpurru Clans which own separate yirralka clan estates)

36) Njuli nhe nhä biḍila'kuḅal ḅula nhä mak nhe waḅa-moḅuḅu yolḅu, yaka walu buḅu, bondi waḅḍi bala mulka'lil wäḅalil, walal nhunany dhu ḍapmaram romdhu dhirratjay märr nhe dhu galkunmirr romgu bäyarrow.

36. If you breach or desecrated the law in anyway, for example if you have physically assaulted someone, do not delay, go quickly as you can to a Mulka Wäḅa, a safe proclaimed haven, where, within they can arrest you and place you under the protective authority of the law to await the full reconciliation process of the law (in a form of protective custody).

37) Bäpurru yolḅuny nhe dhu ḅäma bilmakurr yan ga yaka nhe yäku ḅanya lakaraḅ yänayyi, bäy dhu wangany nhä mak märrma' dhungarra djuḅkthun yurnha yäkuny ḅanya bäki. Yaka ḅayaḅu-midikuyaḅ romnha Njärrany'.

All clans people should wait for the name of the deceased person to be announced through the process of the announcement by the bilma clapsticks. Do not pronounce the name of the deceased until something like one or two years have past. Do not disrespect the law of the Njärra' parliament.

38) Yaka gärrri wiripuḅuwal buḅbulil läy-ḅarr'ḅarr nhokiyingal nhe ḅayaḅuy dhä-ḅänhamiriw, nhe dhu ḅayaḅu-midikuman Njärrany' ga maḍayin djalkiri.

38. Do not trespass on or enter of your own will without permission into someone else's premises. If you do you will offend the Njärra' parliament and the foundational Madayin law.

The information contained in this document is offered as a glimpse into the complex cultural material provided in educational introductions to traditional law. It is brief and incomplete in both depth and scope. The publication of this information is authorized by the Njymil Gampurrḅji, Njymil Bulkmana, Njymil ḍäḅiwuy and Njymil Goḅdarra clan nations. It is provided to the guests attending the Njärra' at Galiwinku on the 3rd of September, 2005.