

"FETCHING IT BACK"

Kiriwina

May my bulubwalata be blunt
may my fetching magic be keen!
 I am fetching back!
From the North East
 I am fetching back
From the South East
 I am fetching back.
From the jungle of Ulawala
 I am fetching back.
From the jungle of Tepila
 I am fetching back.
Though it has become a wood spirit
 I am fetching back.
From under the stone heaps
 I am fetching back.
From the stone walls
 I am fetching back.
With the smell of my mint magic
 I am fetching back.
I am fetching back your mind, woman!
Come back to your mother
Come back to your father
Tear open the house
Tear off my hair

Tread on the floor of my house
And lie on my bed.
Come and let us dwell together
Within our house.

—Translated by Linda Thomas

Note. "Bulubwalata" is a magic formula intended to do evil.
The term is from the Kiriwina language.