

Tikbalang (tik-bah-lang)

A Filipino Folk Tale

Ever wandered round in circles,
lost deep in a wood?
Traipsed a maze of baffling pathways?
None lead where they should!
Sensed that something's close behind you
tracking you off-course?
Tremble, traveller, meet Tikbalang,
fearsome demon horse.

Should you choose to make a journey,
watch out for this fiend.
Master of deception, devious,
things aren't what they seem.
Best wear adequate protection
(not a knife or stick),
turn your T-shirt inside out and
that will do the trick.

Then this beast, half horse, half human,
can't lead you astray,
can't confuse, bemuse, befuddle,
make you lose your way,
won't transform to friend or neighbour,
lead you more off-course.
There's no need to tremble, traveller.
Trick the demon horse.

Background Information -Tikbalang is a Filipino mythological creature, half-human, half-horse, that is said to cast spells on travellers so they get lost. Sometimes Tikbalang will assume the form of someone you know so you'll follow it and end up getting even more lost, never to be seen again. You can prevent or break the spell by wearing your shirt inside out.