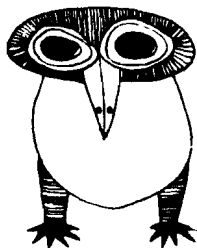


DRAGON TREE

AROSI INCANTATION AND SONGS

Translated by John S. Saunana



PAPUA POCKET POETS

PORT MORESBY 1971

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COVER DESIGN : GEORGINA BEIER

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would like to give my due acknowledgement to the old man, JOHN KAKARI of Horoahia village, Arosi, Makira, who kindly gave his collection of traditional literature and Folk-Lore into my custody. In particular, I am indebted to him for the Arosi versions of the magical incantations and the various garden rituals. The children's games and lullabies, were taught to me by my mother, and I have been able to remember them, from the hazy days of childhood.

I bear full responsibility for any errors which I may have fallen into in my translations from Arosi into English. Any such errors are due to my insufficient understanding of the archaic form of Arosi in which these incantations have been handed down to the present day.

J. S. Saunana

ARUIA NI HAUNI TOHE

Ei weu moi eu,

Ei ohu moi eu.

HEIARU ANAI IRARA

Au karia nagua taha ? Mau karia nagua makari diri wawawa i aidangi,

Ai boi taboria ana mwane wara'angi saea omeome i dangi.

Au karia nagua taha? Mau karia nagua diri wawawa i rodo,

Ai boi taboria ana mwane wawaitoto saena omeome i rodo.

HEIARU ANAI HA'AGAGU BWO (ARUIA DIRI NI HA'AGAGU BWO)

Au unu ai taha?

Mau unuai eba iana gregare tataru asi,

Na eba iana gregare tataru asi, a eba tarahanei Anangari, ai bu aia mai ta barai bwo wasi, e barai bwo tari.

Au unu ai taha?

Mau unuai eba iana gregare a'arasi o'o;

Mana eba iana gregare a'arasi o'o, a eba hanei tara haneitoro,

Ei buaia mai tagua barai bwo,

E barai bwo goro,

E barai bwo ni o'o.

INCANTATIONS

Red hot the fire

Heat up you fire

Red hot the fire

Heat

Heat up you fire!

incantation to bless the stone

before which oaths are taken

I chip the diri leaf of the day

for the kingfisher to peck

who sees by day.

I chip the diri leaf of the night

for the owl to peck

who sees in the dark.

incantation to woo knowledge

What da I say?

The maiden who fetches salt water runs an errand

she runs to the ridges of Anangari

She'll bring back a herd of pigs!

What da I say?

The boy who shapes spears runs an errand

he runs to the mountain ridges;

you bring me a herd of pigs!

A herd of pigs, of prize pigs, a herd for slaughter !

incantation to round up a herd of

wild pigs

HEIARU ANAI WAWAI AUNGA

Au durua nagua ara nihaka,

Au siba iniai aunga na...

Baniai marau ta'a.

Wei waia aungana...

Baniai marau ta'a,

Marau'i gahuaraha,

Gerei ari ahoi marau agara'a,

Marauni ngau heitagumai agara'a,

Oi huhusu mara ono i abenai matawaraha,

Oi huhusu mara baewa abenai matawaraha,

Oi huhusu mara mwarore abena matawaraha,

Oi huhusu mara girio abena matawaraha,

Oi huhusu mara iri abena matawaraha,

Oi roho maui huhusu maui oro,

Oi huhusu tarau mai marau agara,

Oi ewa gau moi gaonai tara,

Rai rehiagau ta ha'a nai musumusumataria mana naori ataha.

INCANTATIONS FOR DEATH AND DISEASE

I tie my knot ship shape

I wriggle it

it takes me across the sea

in search of the soul of . . .

In the dark and desolate land

the land of outer darkness

we

the two of us must return to our land

our land

the land where we eat from one dish.

Go !

Fly like the flying fish over the surface of the ocean

Swirl like the shark through the surface of the ocean

Swish like the sword fish under the surface of the ocean

Skim like the dolphin above the surface of the ocean

Swim like the Iri on the surface of the ocean

Fly, swirl, swish, skim, swim

till you land on the shores of our island

but wait awhile on the beach

till the token money has been placed in my hand

then you shall reach your destination.

to bring back the soul of a sick man

UNU AHA

Au unu aha rudaruda, ioe adaro ni ruma oi husu taehai hunga
ogu reia moi sina mana hura.

Au unu aha radarada, ioe adaro ni omaa oi husu taehai hunga
nai ada'a
ogu reia moi sina mana mada'ara.

HAIARU ANAI HAHE NARA AOA INIAI ADARO BANIAI RUMA NI MAE

Hahei hane tatata,
Adaro nui hane tatata.
Hahei hane idi'idi,
Adaro nai hane idi'idi.

HEIARU ANAI SAE NA SADOIAI OIOI MAE.

Au tabaria mwane kasuhe buru,
Oi reke wou ma oi husu.
Au tabaria mwane kasuhe waiwaireke,
Oi husu wau ma oi reke.

Spirit of the house

you leap on the pinnacle

to see only the sun and the moon.

Spirit of the house

you leap on the pinnacle

to see only the sun and the morning stars.

to cleanse a house of a recent death,
spoken to a rod, with which the spirit
is to be fished

Dragon tree, protector from the wilderness !

Evil spirit to the wilderness !

Dragon tree, protector from the steep mountain slopes

evil spirit to the steep mountain slopes !

to fish the spirit of a recent
dead from the house

I spank the black rat

black rat run and leap

I trounce the black rat

you leap and run away, fast.

to reinstate consciousness
in an unconscious person

HA'AURA I MOU HIRA

Hira, hira,
Ku'u tewatewa mara au'u.
Hira, hira, aka,
Tewatewa mara ada'a !

ROTOHI MOU HARISI

Au taruhia nagua wai ana Waikoropi'i,
Au taruhia nagua taha ?
Mau taruhia nagua waiana Waikoropi'i ,
E maho ni rotohi uhi .
Au taruhia nagua waina Waikoropa'a,
Au taruhia nagua taha ?
Mau taruhia nagua waiana Waikoropa'a,
E maho ni rotohi hinanga.

HA'AURA MWOU BWA'A

Bwa'a gigiru ara,
Nai gigiru ara,
Agu nonoro mau hasinana,
Mana giru abwane ara !
Bwa'a gigiru honu,
Nai gigiru honu,
Agu nonoro mau dohu,
Mana giru abwane honu !

GARDEN MAGIC

Taro, taro,
grow tall, tall like the post of a house !
Taro, taro shoot,
grow long, long like the beam of a house !

incantation for planting long taro

I collect water from the stream of Waikoropii
What do I collect ?

But I collect my water from the stream of Waikoropii,
which makes the yams grow larger and quicker.

What do I collect ?

But I collect my water from the stream of Waikoropaa,
which increases the harvest and the yam stock.

incantation to bless the the annual
yam garden

Taro hole is ready
the hole is ready
although the fire is still glowing in the new clearing.

The taro holes are already dug out for planting !

Taro holes to be filled
let the holes be filled
although there's still fire glowing
among the ash and charcoal

the taro holes have been filled to the brim !

incantation for the taro garden

HA'AURA I MWOU BWA'A

Dangi na urai tara,
Abwara roasia
Ha'a moi rawana agu sisisi moi korana.
Dangi na urai tara,
Abwara roasia hangabona,
Agu sisisi moi kora.

Au ano ano giru na ihuihu,
Au unna dono burotona mwane haihu,
Au ano ano giru na ihuihu.
Au ano ano giru ma eraera,
Au unua dona burotana mwane baewa,
Sau ano ano giru ma eraera.

When hurricane descends from the sky
hurricane will not pluck you clean
but will only expose your fattish base.

When hurricane descends from the sky
hurricane will only rout your tender trunk
but will never uproot you clean.

incantation spoken at the time of
taro planting to give the plant a
stout stem and leaves

I round the loose side of the hole that's caving in
I think it is the forehead of the dugong
I round the side of the hole that's caving in
the hole that refills to the brim
I round the hole in sandy soil that does not hold
I think it is the forehead of the shark
I round the hole that does not hold.

incantation spoken when planting taro

ARUIAI BA'ANI AHOASI

Au aratai ba'a ihei?
Mau aratai ba'a misina mwane aragau,
Na ia i tamu tamu siau,
Na ia i tamutamu siau.
Au aratai ba'a ihei?
Mau aratai ba'a misina mwane tehe,
Na ia i tamutamu siau tere,
Na ia i tamutamu siau tere.

BURUIA

Au buru iai hei?
Mau buru iai ngonai ora rumu,
Na ia i mae hunu.
Au buru iai hei ?
Mau buru iai ngonai oroa
Na ia i mae mora.

RAE BAEWA

Au tetei kekerena,
Au raei bwau sahena.
Au tetei bwau sahena,
Au raei kekerena.

FISHING MAGIC

Where is the bait?

Where is the sacred bait?

It is clutched in the claws of the eagle
enticing the fish to bite my line.

The fish will bite my line.

Where is the sacred bait?

It is stuck in the claws of the hawk
enticing the fish to pull my line into the deep.
The hungry fish will drag my line into the deep.

blessing the fish bait

I anoint the bow of the canoe
that the fish may die whole.

I anoint the edges of the fishing ground
that the fish may die of their own accord.

blessing a newly completed

canoe before a fishing trip

I grabbed it by the tail
and twisted it by the head.

I grabbed it by the head
and twisted it by the tail.

to kill a shark

ROHEROHE

Au rohe hei?

Mau roherohe ngona hugi abwao,

Au rahusi ha'a bao bao.

Au roherohe hei?

Mau roherohe ngona hugi abwore,

Au rahusi ha'a borebore.

HAIARU ANAI RAE AHA.

Taboria mwane mwa'a,

Raesia mwane huasa !

Taboria mwane huasa,

Raesia mwane mwa'a !

Rodi . . .

Rodi toto mai moi ngosi,

Ma wai tahi ahoi,

Tahi ari obosi.

Where do I string the fishing line?

But I string the mouth of the leaning banana

I sling my line out to sea and haul it prodly.

Where do I string the fish line?

But I string the mouth of the pregnant banana

I sling my line out to sea and proudly .ig.ag it ashore.

to string the rod with a
a fishing line

Bite his rod, snake !

Break it crocodile !

Bite and tug at his rod, crocodile,

Break it snake !

to break someone's fishing rod

Lord.....

Lord join my portion yonder,

remould me to my former self :

Awhole !

Restore me to life once more !

Alive !

Living in that turbulent river pool.

a mutilated eel's prayer for resurrection

This song is part of a legend in which the cut-up
portions of the eel, which were being baked in the
ovens, suddenly came to life, and on joining the head,
the eel zigzagged its way back to safety.

Baekai so diri baekai ao !

Mana siri ana mano,

Gere haka monu wao.

Baekai ao diri baekai ao !,

Siriana mano,

Na girasi na nao,

Baekai ao diri baekai ao !,

Na girasi na wado,

Na wado siri mano toroi Mwanunugao,

Baekai ao diri baekai ao !

Toroi Mwanunugao,

A siba siba urao,

Baekai ao diri baekai ao !

HISTORICAL SONGS

Sighting of the First Sailing Schooner

Like the tops of the sago palm swaying in the wind

Baekai ao diri baekai ao !

It rides the crest of the waves

the stout little ship

the bird of war !

Baekai ao diri baekai ao !

How it comes in

its glasses afront !

Baekai aodiri baekai ao !

The glasses reflect

they shine on the highlands of Mwanunugao !

Baekai ao diro baekai ao !

Scanning the whole of Mwanunugao

searching for women and girls !

Baekai ao diri baekai ao !

DURU AIDARO

Duru aidaro

la duru aidaro,

Toroni ra dio hako,

Na siba warao.

Duru aidaro

la duru aidaro !

la Nato a tei hano dio mano,

Ra roboni kakapo,

Roboni waro sahao,

Duru aidaro

la duru aidaro !

Ma hai suri mano,

la torowa'a aro,

Amuri rau mano a bwauniahawao,

Duru aidaro

la duru aidaro !

TRADING EXPEDITION TO THE COAST

They gather under the aidaro tree
a gathering around the aidaro tree !

The highlanders have all gone down
to search for sandalwood !

They'll gather under the aidaro
a gathering under the aidaro tree !

And Nato, ha !

She even went down with them !

They're adorned with ferns in their hair
and crown it all with the hao creeper.

They'll gather under the aidaro
a gathering under the aidaro tree.

and following at her heels, her buttocks show
under short skirts

and following them the sharp edged pigeon head !

They'll gather under the aidaro
a gathering around the aidaro tree !

Hasiwae taruru,
Abwu mamauru ha'a uraura ruru,
Gasi bwoi a asimu,
Magu dau i abimu !

A DRUM MESSAGE

Flagging

drooping

old hag

your needle-like limbs protrude helplessly

mind your sleeping posture ;

avoid dangling those nude knees skywards

inadvertently inviting your brother to your thighs !

a message of arrival

sent by means of drum beat

to alert host

PORUPORU ADAI GEREGARE KEKEREI

HIHITO'O

Hihito'o

langi angi hei?

langi mwara hito'o?

Asirihi rororo,

Inia i pwarisuna mwane kaura,

I wai e i wai ! !

KUKURU MWASI

Kukuru mwasi,

Tatara mai,

Tara mai koru,

Kokoru pwe,

Pwe mwarore,

Mwarore ngada rore,

Ngada hai oe oe,

Ubutai wabute,

Tete naue,

Naue hurehure,

Tapi ae kasuhe,

Ooo! Ooo! Ooo!!

CHILDRENS SONGS

BIRD CRYING : A GUESSING GAME

Where is the bird crying ?

On the branch of which tree ?

hiding away

perched inside the foliage

hiding from sensitive nose and eyes of the eagle

crying softly : i-wai e i-wai ! !

THE BLIND SILLIES

A band of blind sillies

coming to me locked hand in hand

to bite

chew

and swallow

the tender genitals of little girls

like the sword fish

their mutterings of : oe-oe

deafens the ear like rolling waves

on the shore

like the ear piercing rattle of dancing nut shells

among beautiful blooms of beach flowers !

Enchanting

confusion

numbing

they eat rat leavings as if it were delicious food !

Ooo ! Ooo! Ooo!

TATAHO AU

Tataho au tahoria wae au,
Wae au korekore,
Korekorai buri,
Buri ana Siri,
Siri tai pwaruri,
Tai pwaruri hugi,
Hugi ni aoa suri tatahi usuri,
Adai manu amui,
Manu ra bwahei aru,
Aru ana a Hiau,
Hiau bwahe ngaungau,
Bwahe mara uhi hau,
Uhi ngau babau,
Mo'o ku mwakau.

OPENING THE OLD WOMAN'S LIME POT

Open

open the lime pot
open the old woman's lime pot;
gently tap the inside with the lime stick
and listen to its amorous sounds
screeching, swirling, swaying - trapped
like the noise in the cowrie shell
that belongs to Siri
who changes himself into a stump.
the stump of a banana
the banana that fishes lives
for your flock of birds
the birds that frequent last season's garden
belonging to Hiau
Hiau -
whose testicles feed on their own
testicles that are as large
and hard as the stone yam
yam which is hard to chew with the teeth;
you crunch
crack
and crunch !

WAWAHE

Wawahe!

Uhia tani eu

Gesu ome siri wou.

Wawahe!

Omesia i wa'ana

Wawahe!

Wa'ana humae

Wawahe!

Humae wa'aroko

Wawahe!

Wa'aroko hasi o'o

Wawahe !

Hasi o'o nono'o

Wawahe!

Nono'o tanibani

Wawahe!

Bani aho ahoasi

Wawahe!

Ahoasi hidari

Wawahe !

Hidari tani wai

Wawahe!

Tani wai Aroaha

Wawahe !

Mua wi'i na Taka

Wawahe !

Ia Taka beri raha

Wawahe !

OLD WOMAN

Old woman !

You blow on the fire
light up the fire
so we can look into your house!

Old woman !

Look in to see the naked hips

Old woman!

Humae's naked hips

Old woman !

Humae's thin waist

Old woman !

As straight and rigid
as the seasoned wood of the spear

Old woman

The tough wall supports of the house

Old woman !

Like the seasoned fishing rod

Old woman

With which they catch the fish

Old woman !

The fish in the river

Old woman !

The river of Aroaha

Old woman !

Yours are the genitals of Taka

Old woman !

Taka the great great chief

Old woman !

Beri ani susu ma'a

Wawahe!

Susu mara bua mada

Wawahe!

Susu ma tatara

Wawahe!

Manai oha raha

Wawahe!

Oha tai ani rawa

Wawahe!

Rehiani oi bwaru

Wawahe!

Giroha tanutanu

Wawahe!

Oboi Aimwagaru

Wawahe!

Na maru siani hau

Wawahe!

Hau susu nakunaku

Wawahe!

Susu warikuni manu

Wawahe!

Warikuni Kio abu

Wawahe!

Kio abu ni marau

Who stole a pair of dried wrinkled breasts

Old woman !

Wrinkled breasts

like the fallen fruit of the betel nut

Old woman !

Breasts with worn, torn nipples sagging in line

Old woman !

Like the peak of the starving season

Old woman !

When the trees were stripped of their leaves,

Old woman !

Remove the leaf lid of the bamboo water container

Old woman !

Splash

and cup the water with the palms of the hand

Old woman !

In the pool of Mwagaru

Old woman !

Pool which is covered by a wall of rock

Old woman !

The abode of stinging rayfish

Old woman !

Where the birds nestle in splendour

Old woman !

The bright red feathers of the kio bird

Old woman !

The bright red kio bird of the island

Wawahe!
Marau burai dau
Wawahe !
Dau o'o o'o mau
Wawahe ! !

Hihita pwa
Rua pwakaka
Raru eba tatara
Tarasi rani dadama
Mara tarohia ma.
Ooo! Ooo! Ooo!

Old woman !

The island which was recently conquered

Old woman !

Conquered with its spears, shields, men and all !

Old woman !!

LULLABIES

SONG TO STOP A CHILD CRYING

Clap

clap

poh!

Two green lizards running side by side

in perfect unison

up

down

and through the foliage of the dadama tree

gently wiping the running sweat

from each other's face

Ooo! Ooo! Ooo!

the refrain "ooo" accompanies the caressing of the
child's face with the adult's and the child's palms
together, instead of gently stroking the child's face
the adult and the child may rub noses together

Hihita pwa
Pwopwoita
Tarai wai tatama
Mo'o tarohia ma

Ou ou wai
Mana ou au wai
Oi abui angī angī ha'a hiai angī,
Ha'a hiai ami
Saena mi wari
Wari kakaroi bani
Mana ou ou wai;
Wari kakaroi bani,
Na bwarani ura ari,
Bwarani ura ari,
Urani taru wai
Mana hai dunga mai.
Ou ou wai
Mana ou ou wai.

TO STOP A CHILD CRYING

Clap

clap

clap

stumbling along the footpath
that leads to the river Tatama;
and you wipe your face !
Ooo ! Ooo! Ooo!

TO ENTICE A CHILD TO SLEEP

Oh oh water

Oh oh water

you must not cry incessantly
to weigh us down
who are old and drooping
and crawl to the wall for support

oh oh flowing water

oh oh flowing water !

Dropping old crawling to the walls of the house
but unable to stand or walk a distance
to stand or walk the distance
to and from the stream to collect drinking water!
To gather wood for the fire in the house !

oh oh water

oh oh water !

Dangi dangi na kiki
Kiki tau taua
Tua mara bora
Mara bora kuhari
Kuhari wai riri
Wai riri aroro
Aroro kanikani
Kania mara ruka
Mara ruka ni Gera
Watahuri korena
Mo'o dangi marewa.

Dangi dangisi rarua
Rua wae rarua
Raru beriberi bua
Ihau ana uwa
Tai ro'ohua
Dangi mano maua?

SONG TO HASTEN DAYLIGHT

Daylight daylight make haste
make haste come quickly now
quickly like the winged pigeon
like the pigeon in flight.

Shine on this water of darkness
water of darkness pitched darkness !
Pitched darkness - like piercing spear
piercing through softwood
like the softwood of Gela island.
You pierce through its girth
you dawn, light up !

USHERING IN THE DAWN

Daylight daylight shine on those two
two old women
who're stealing the betel nut
from grandpa's stone ;
one two three !
Dawn, why not light up ?

Kiki mo

Rongo angiangi na o'o

O'o na Mwaero

Mwaero totoro,

Totoro hasibo

Adai mwaneni toro,

Sae nara wido'o,

Wi mara bwaro,

Bwaro nonoro

Wakasia kariko'o ,

Rurumia kariko'o.

ON WAKING UP WHILE WARMING ONESELF BY THE FIRE

Sleep no more you all!
Hear the beat of the talking gong!
the gong of Mwaero
its Mwaero sending word of the kill
telling us about the wild pigs
that were killed by the hill people
people with dirty genitals
penises like fire feeders
that burn to black charcoal !
Opening the palms of the hands !
Closing the palms of the hands !