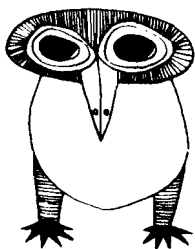


# AIA

MEKEO SONGS

COLLECTED AND TRANSLATED BY

ALLAN NATACHEE



PAPUA POCKET POETS

PORT MORESBY 1968

Cover Design by Georgina Beier

My father was Pinongo Aipa, peace chief of Amoama village. My mother, Munapa Lala, was the daughter of a war spearman from Beipa'a village. They had four children. I was the third and was called Avaisa Pinongo.

When I was about three years old, I used to hear the older people sing; and I used to sing just as they had done. They were very surprised to hear me sing. I was very fond of smearing my body with red native paint. The song I first learnt to sing was one of the war songs (Fala'e'a). Here it is:

Aia kearaie vea!	Aia walks on the road,
Aia ivi ruvua,	Aia all naked.
Kearai e vea!	Aia walks on the road.

Then my poor mother died and I was taken to the nuns. There were no more war songs for me. The year my mother died was 1930, when I was about 5 years old. My poor father died in 1939 when I was 14 years old. The name Natachee was given to me by one of the nuns. She used to tell us stories about Indians. She said I looked like one of the Indians called Natachee. So even my family call me Natachee to this day.

These are some of the songs I remember from childhood.

A ' A I S A   E N G A   I V I U V I U   E M  
K A V E K A V E

Vei mainina

maini mainina

vapura mainina

maini mainina.

Aia anu anuna

Aia mia miana

Aia anu anuna

Anu vanaina

Aia mia miana

mia vanaina

Aia ai ramana

Aia ai puana

Vei lanai

Aia e mia

Aia e riva

vapura lanai

THE CYCLE OF A'AI SA

Water all over

all all over

darkness all over

all all over

Aia sitting seated

Aia living alive

Aia sitting seated

sitting forever

Aia living alive

living forever

Aia without beginning

Aia without end

Above the water

Aia has lived

Aia has watched

above the darkness

Aia e mia

Aia e riva

Aia mai kano iramana

Aia mai vanua iramana

Mai kano iramana

irama iramana

mai vanua iramana

iramo iramana

Aia atena vouranai

ta rama rama

Aia pinana vouranai

ta rama roma

Ani anina

tapa tapana

uviai tapana

venuai tapana

Aia has lived

Aia has watched

Aia creator of our earth

Aia creator of our home

Creator of earth

creator creating

creator of home

creator creating

By mouth wind of Aia

we were made

by lip wind of Aia

we were made

Eater eating

things all things

things above

things below

Aia rani ranina

mai kanoai ke rani rania

mai vanuai ke rani rania

Aia rani ovona

mai kanoai ke rani avona

mai vanuai ke rani avona



Aia lighting alight

lighting our earth

lighting our home

Aia lighting all over

lighting all our earth

Aia lighting all over

lighting all our home

U L A L U M O U L A L U A

Ulalumo ulalua  
ulalu lavanai a mai  
a mia ulalua?

Ulalumo ulalua  
ulalu lavanai a mai  
a kori ulalua?

Ulalumo ulalua

Vanua ulalumai a mai  
a mia ulalua  
vanua ulalumai a mai  
a kori ulalua

Kano ulalurai a mai  
a mia ulalua  
kano ulalumai a mai  
a kori ulalua

## P O V E R T Y

Poverty, only poverty.

From what poverty have I come  
to live in poverty?

From what poverty have I come  
to stand in poverty?

Poverty, only poverty.

From home of poverty I have come  
to live in poverty.

From home of poverty I have come  
to stand in poverty.

From land of poverty I have come  
to live in poverty.

From land of poverty I have come  
to stand in poverty.

K A N O N A   E N A   K A N O N A

Kanona! Ena kanona!

Avevemo kanona!

Kanona! Ena kanona!

Onavaimo kanona!

Aveve e pea

apune pane pane!

Anove e pea

apune pane pane!

Aveve mamu

te ate te vaina!

Onovai mamu

te ate te vaina!

Aveve mamu vite

ka vite!

Anovai mamu vite

ka vite!

## W E E P I N G

That land! That land yonder!

That land of weeping!

That land! That land yonder!

That land of mourning!

Weeping walks,

its footprint is none.

Mourning walks,

its footprint is none.

Eyes of weeping

descend and come to you.

Eyes of mourning

descend and come to you!

Song of your weeping eyes

I sing.

Song of your mourning eyes

I sing.

L O V I A   N A U N A

Lovia nauna  
mai avevena  
pate aovina!

Lovia nauna  
mai onovina  
pate aovina!

Mata ulaluna  
matauaimo!

Mata loviana  
matauaimo!

Ulalu nauna  
po ulaluna!

Lovia nauna  
po loviana!

S O N   O F   T H E   C H I E F

Son of the chief,  
let them not take him away  
while weeping.

Sone of the chief,  
let them not take him away  
while mourning.

Eye of poverty -  
in my eyes only.

Eye of wealth  
in my eyes only.

Son of poverty  
comes to poverty!

Son of wealth  
comes to wealth!

E U T O P E L A V A V I N E

Eu tope la vavine

vivitoe lo ie!

Eu tope naminai mo apiau maie!

Eu vora nanainai mo apiau maie!

Eu varai anuanune!

Eu tope konikonine!

M I A T A I N A L A T A I N A

Anu maina la maina

anu taina la taina!

Mia maina la maina

mia taina la taina!



## R E D L E A F

My red leaf I swing  
see its redness!

Take my red leaf  
and come!

Take my green leaf  
and come!

The bud of my green leaf  
the tip of my red leaf!

## L I V I N G

I come. I come and sit.

I wait. I wait and sit.

I come. I come and live.

I wait. I wait and live.

K O P I O V A I R U O

Kopio vairuo

kopi e rovo!

Kopi vake vakeo

kopi e rovo!

Ero vairuo

ero e rovo!

Ero vake vakeo

ero e rovo!

Violeleo e vauro le ao o!

Kario vura vuro au e io

e vauro le ao a!

## W A R   S O N G

The frog is deceiving,

the frog is jumping.

The frog lies in ambush,

the frog is jumping.

The cockatoo is deceiving,

the cockatoo is flying.

The cockatoo lies in ambush,

the cockatoo is flying.

The bird goes like the wind.

Its head crest erect it sees the foes.

It goes like the wind!

O U! O U! K E R E P O!

Ou! Ou! kerepo!

Ou! ou maiva rovera karikora

kikiria e ka'o!

Ou! Ou kerepo!

Kirope Karope lavai e kuria?

E veaia lavo

e vaeai valivo

Kirope Karope lavai e kuria?

Kirope Karope uai e kuria!

E ivia lavo!

Eivia valivo!

Kirope Karope uai e kuria!

# T H E   S U N   G O D

Enemy! The enemy is creeping.

Enemy! The enemy from Maira Rovera Kariko

Gleaming they go.

Enemy! The enemy is creeping.

Kirope Karope, the sun god,

where did he bury him?

He walked him to the East!

He walked him to the West!

Where did Kirope Karope bury him?

Kirope Karope, the sun god,

buried him in the sky.

He chased him to the East!

he chased him to the West!

Kirope Karope buried him in the sky.

A I A N A U I O V A T A E A I N A

Aia nau lo vataedina!

Aia vini nau lo vataedina!

Aia nau lo valavolavoa!

Aia vini nau lo valavolavoa!

Aia nau lo vapo'opo'ona!

Aia vini nau lo vapo'opo'ona!

Aia nau lo vaneanea!

Aia vini nau lo vaneanea!

Nau ala lo omaia

La aveve la veavea?

Nau alala omoaia

la aveto la veavea?

Aia nauna

onino ma e atoapia!

Aia nauna

vavato ma e atoapia!

M O U R N I N G   S O N G

Aia you have wasted my son!

Great Aia you wasted my son!

Aia you have troubled my son.

Great Aia you have troubled my son.

Aia you have made my son stupid.

Great Aia you have made my son stupid.

Aia you have made my son a stranger.

Great Aia you have made my son a stranger.

What have I done to my son  
that I weep and walk?

What have I done to my son  
that I laugh and walk?

Son of Aia

overgrown by the reeds,

son of Aia

overgrown by water lilies.

Lovia nauna

onino ma e atoapia!

Lovia nauna

vavato ma e atoapia!

Ulalu nauna

onino ma e atoapia!

Ulalu nanu

vavato ma e atoapia!

Onino ma e atoapia!

onino ma e atoapia!

Vavato ma e atoapia!

Vavato ma e atoapia!

Aia nauna tapai te oneia?

Aia nauna pieneni namenai te oneia!

Mo'e ma lapipina e ate e mai

Lovia te ota!

Te otapu te ota!

Te otaore te ota!



Son of the chief  
overgrown by reeds  
son of the chief  
overgrown by water lilies.

Son of the low born  
overgrown by reeds.

Son of the low born  
overgrown by water lilies.

Overgrown by reeds.

Overgrown by water lilies.

Overgrown by reeds  
overgrown by water lilies.

Where did you bury the son of Aia?

They buried the son of Aia by the bamboo tree.

Maybe the wind swept down:

the chiefs have died!

They all died out!

They died every one!

A I A

Aia kearai e vea!

Aia ivi-ruvua.

Kearai e vea!

Aia imau anea!

Aia ivi-ruvua.

Imau anea!

Aia emu tio lo mupeia!

Aia ivi-ruvua.

Emu tio lo nupeia!

Aia tivania rereva rereva!

Aia ivi ruvua

Tivania rereva-rereva!

A | A

Aia walks on the road

Aia all naked.

He walks on the road.

Aia my hand is faultless,

Aia all naked,

My hand is faultless!

Aia you shake your spear,

Aia all naked,

you shake your spear!

Aia in war decoration

Aia all naked

Aia in war decoration.

V I R A   V I R A

Vavie na nuamu alonai patoto pa vaie

Apu po mie

Aupu aveve pa mie

Popolewa kaviavai

ako a vaviua

komau a vaviua

le noie tava noie

ako amamu titipai e aoe

moma inamu kanopai e aoe

le noie tava noie

## L O V E   C H A R M

I shall come and enter your heart, woman!

Leaf of Kapok shall entice you!

Weeping leaf of Kapok shall entice you!

## T W O   L U L L A B I E S

On Popolewa hill

I am rocking a boy

I am rocking a girl.

Hush, be quiet,

Little boy, your father has gone to find meat.

Little girl, your mother has gone to find fish.

Hush, be quiet.

P A P U A P O C K E T P O E T S

edited by Ulli Beier

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