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Sikaiana Traditional Songs

Sikaiana

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1981

### Puina Songs

Joseph Tealo

Fane Telano

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*Puina* are occasions when men and women break into separate groups and secretly compose songs critical of the opposite sex. These are some of the songs composed during a *puina* in 1981. The songs commemorating the arrival of American flyers in August 1942, are more composed to taunt Sikaiana man by comparing them unfavorably with the Sikaiana women.

These songs about the flyers can be found here at 42:39 on traditional album 5  
[https://research.library.kutztown.edu/sikaiana\\_songs\\_traditional/5/](https://research.library.kutztown.edu/sikaiana_songs_traditional/5/)

Some examples from the 1981 *puina* can be found in album 5 about 48:26 in the tape.  
[https://research.library.kutztown.edu/sikaiana\\_songs\\_traditional/6/](https://research.library.kutztown.edu/sikaiana_songs_traditional/6/)

Also, I have discussion in chapter 7 of the ethnography that is part of this website:

[https://research.library.kutztown.edu/sikaiana\\_ethnography/10/](https://research.library.kutztown.edu/sikaiana_ethnography/10/)

## Women's Puina Song 1981

This is a women's song composed in the 1981 *puina*. It makes fun of me. I would stay on Sikaiana, then leave for Honiara and then return. The song makes fun of me saying that I keep trying to find a wife, but I cannot. I have a hairy round chest and I smell like a dog.

Te lapa-ee, koe e hano muli  
Te lapa-ee, koe e hano muli

Hulimai muli, hulimai muli i to hihai ki anau  
Hulimai muli, hulimai muli i to tanimai ki anau

E fainataa, e fainanataa, i to hatahata pukuhuluhulu ei  
E fainataa, e fainataa, i to manu kulii

Koe ku noho, koe ku laka ma te avana.

The white man, you come back again. (*lapa* is the word on Luaniua for a "white man")  
The white man, you come back again

You keep coming back in your desire for me (can substitute anyone, including old widows)  
You keep coming back in your crying for me

It is very hard (to find a wife), it is very hard because of your round hairy chest

It is very hard, it  
is very hard because you smell like a dog

((In the last two lines, the women call out the names of old bachelors saying I am like them.))

## Men's Puina Song #2

This song was composed by Joseph Tealo as part of the 1981 *puina*. It was meant to criticize the old women of Sikaiana who were at that time composing songs to make fun of the young men.

Na tautau oma o toku henau laa

A Koutou

Ku tuputupu tama o te ata naa

A Koutou

Ku tuputupu tama o te lehuna

A Koutou

Na naivi o Sikaiana laa

A Koutou

To kai imua ki saelle mai ku vae tolu poi a te moa i Yandina laa

A Koutou

Te la kalemata luaio talatala o to leo leoleo haeko

KUKUKUKU

Simpapa

You are like a tautau oma (long skinny fish)

YOU

Who bears children in the early dawn

YOU

Who bears children in the dusk of the evening

YOU

Who walks like a three footed chicken (with a cane) like the one in Yandina

YOU

A second pair of eyes (glasses?) and the rough voice

KUKUKUKU

Simpapa