

I

Ngaahi Hiva, Songs

Ngaahi Fuofua Hiva (Hiva Kakala), Early Songs

1. Loka Siliva, Silver Lock

THIS is the earliest poem in the collection. It was composed by Princess Sālote for Tung Mailefihi some time before they were married in September 1917. The phrase “tangled *maile* leaflets” refers to Tung’s nickname, “Mailefihi”, meaning “intertwining *maile*”, given to him because the great chiefly names of Tonga’s past appear in his genealogy.

Loka Siliva

He māhina si'ene halani
Huelo hā 'i he loto tahi
Langa noa hoku 'atamai
Manatu 'o fakatupu tangi

Uisa he fāhinā 'ene hopo
He fihinga maile laumomo
Ko hoto kahoa tuku 'i loto
Te u tauleva 'o 'ikai ke to'o

Lose moto he taukakapa
'Oku fotu he ngoue kakala
'Oku hā he seiti ne tapa
Ho 'īmisi kōulā tokotaha

Tau:

'Amusia pē 'a e matangi na
'Oku ne angi fā'iteliha
Kae hopoate pē kita
He 'ofā 'oku loka siliva

Silver Lock

The moonrise lightens the horizon
Moonbeams reflecting on the sea
Rouse the ache in my mind
Remembering, tears flow

Ah, how the white pandanus ripens
In the tangled *maile* leaflets
It is my heart's garland
Never to be cast off

Budding rose of the unreachable
Standing proud in the flower garden
Seen in the shade sparkling
Your matchless image of gold

Chorus:

Oh, happy is the wind
That blows wherever it pleases
While I live a prisoner
To love with its silver lock



Wedding of Princess Sālote and Tungī Mailefihi, 19 September 1917.