

Women's Sago Songs (*Obedobora*)

Sago Song 1¹

Singer: Mu'ubiaka. Recorded 18 October 1980
at Hegeso village.

As I explained in *The Empty Place*, this song addresses the sun as a young girl, skipping down the sky. 'Don't set too quickly, Miss, I still have much work to do!' the singer is saying. (See Weiner 1991:120–26; for a textually simplified version of this song, see *ibid.* 1988a:134; finally, *ibid.* 1991:148–50 shows a transcription of this simplified version in Western music notation.)

🎵 online example 1.

1.	<i>ira</i> wood	<i>abu-o²</i> mallet			
2.	<i>biri</i> here	<i>huie</i> strike			
3.	<i>ira</i> wood	<i>ka</i> woman	<i>wasa</i> mallet		
4.	<i>biri</i> here	<i>huma'ae</i> strike			
5.	<i>duma</i> mountain	<i>haro</i> climbing	<i>hubu</i> struck	<i>kaboneo</i> Miss	<i>owa</i> <i>owa</i>
6.	<i>meye</i> not yet	<i>wa'ayo'o</i> do not come	<i>owa</i> <i>owa</i>		
7.	<i>duma</i> mountain	<i>oro</i> top	<i>hubu</i> struck	<i>kabonere</i> Miss	<i>owa</i> <i>owa</i>

1 The naming and numbering of songs here follows that used in *The Empty Place* (Weiner 1991). References to particular songs in that volume and other publications by Weiner are included in the notes prefacing the song texts.

2 The orthography used here is based on that initially developed by missionary linguist Murray Rule. For further details, see publications by Weiner (1988a:xvii–xviii; 1991:xi–xii) and Rule (1993:23–25). In particular, note that the apostrophe represents a glottal stop and that tildes indicate nasalisation of the vowels to which they are attached (*ã, ê, î, õ, û*).

Songs of the Empty Place

8.	<i>meye</i> not yet	<i>wa'ayo'o</i> do not come	<i>owa</i> <i>owa</i>			
9.	<i>meye</i> not yet	<i>wamone</i> do not come	<i>owa</i> <i>owa</i>			
10.	<i>ibu</i> river	<i>busu</i> dappled light	<i>humekerabo</i> strike + put	<i>kabonere</i> Miss	<i>owa</i> <i>owa</i>	
11.	<i>meye</i> not yet	<i>wa'ayo'o</i> do not come	<i>owa</i> <i>owa</i>			
12.	<i>ibu</i> river	<i>hohotogabo</i> mirror	<i>kabo</i> girl	<i>na-o</i> I too	<i>owa</i> <i>owa</i>	
13.	<i>meye</i> not yet	<i>wamone</i> do not come	<i>owa</i> <i>owa</i>			
14.	<i>duma</i> mountain	<i>humegenemodobo</i> to make dark	<i>kabonere</i> Miss	<i>owa</i> <i>owa</i>		
15.	<i>meye</i> not yet	<i>wa'ayo'o</i> do not come	<i>owa</i> <i>owa</i>			
16.	<i>ibu</i> river	<i>anogo</i> fish net	<i>hamayibu</i> to have gaps	<i>kabonereo</i> Miss	<i>owa</i> <i>owa</i>	
17.	<i>meya</i> not yet	<i>wamona</i> do not come	<i>owa</i> <i>owa</i>			
18.	<i>ibu</i> river	<i>gikoba</i> butterflies	<i>humogoreye</i> to scatter	<i>ubu</i> go	<i>kabonera</i> Miss	<i>owa</i> <i>owa</i>
19.	<i>meye</i> not yet	<i>wa'ayo'o</i> do not come	<i>owa</i> <i>owa</i>			
20.	<i>duma</i> mountain	<i>haro</i> climbing	<i>hubu</i> struck	<i>kabo</i> girl	<i>na'a</i> you	<i>owa</i> <i>owa</i>
21.	<i>meye</i> not yet	<i>wamone</i> do not come	<i>owa</i> <i>owa</i>			
22.	<i>meyere</i> not yet	<i>eya</i> <i>eya</i>				

23.	<i>nomo</i> my	<i>ira</i> tree	<i>kabiri</i> kabiri mallet	<i>ma'oyo'o</i> to take	<i>eya</i> <i>eya</i>	
24.	<i>meya'are</i> not yet	<i>eya</i> <i>eya</i>				
25.	<i>gi</i> ground	<i>soboye</i> there	<i>owa</i> <i>owa</i>			
26.	<i>duma</i> mountain	<i>haru</i> hill	<i>huaye</i> to leave	<i>eya</i> <i>eya</i>		
27.	<i>meya'a</i> not yet	<i>umone</i> do not go	<i>eya</i> <i>eya</i>			
28.	<i>ibu</i> river	<i>damani</i> Danimi	<i>fufae</i> to fly	<i>eya</i> <i>eya</i>		
29.	<i>meya'a</i> not yet	<i>o'oyo'o</i> do not go	<i>eya</i> <i>eya</i>			
30.	<i>duma</i> mountain	<i>sonobo</i> Yafua	<i>kigiri</i> base	<i>hesae</i> to follow	<i>eya</i> <i>eya</i>	
31.	<i>meya'a</i> not yet	<i>o'oyo'o</i> do not go	<i>eya</i> <i>eya</i>			
32.	<i>duma</i> mountain	<i>kanawebi</i> Kagiri	<i>hesae</i> to follow	<i>eya</i> <i>eya</i>		
33.	<i>meya</i> not yet	<i>umona</i> do not go	<i>eya</i> <i>eya</i>			
34.	<i>duma</i> mountain	<i>gara</i> orphan	<i>u'ubi</i> child	<i>kigiri</i> base	<i>hesae</i> to follow	<i>eya</i> <i>eya</i>
35.	<i>meya</i> not yet	<i>o'oyo'o</i> do not go	<i>eya</i> <i>eya</i>			
36.	<i>ibu</i> river	<i>webiga</i> Webi source	<i>fufae</i> to fly	<i>eya</i> <i>eya</i>		
37.	<i>meye</i> not yet	<i>umona</i> do not go	<i>eya</i> <i>eya</i>			

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38.	<i>ira</i> tree	<i>tegaré</i> ko'oya	<i>gifubi-e</i> canopy	<i>eya</i> <i>eya</i>
39.	<i>meya</i> not yet	<i>degamone</i> to hide	<i>eye</i> <i>eye</i>	
40.	<i>oro</i> bamboo	<i>iyebi</i> small	<i>oro</i> top	<i>huae</i> strike <i>eye</i> <i>eye</i>
41.	<i>meye</i> not yet	<i>o'oyo'o</i> do not go	<i>dobo'o</i> spoken	<i>eya</i> <i>eya</i>
42.	<i>bi</i> here	<i>yebimahone</i> do not leave	<i>eya</i> <i>eya</i>	
43.	<i>kui</i> sago	<i>tuba</i> hand	<i>foraye</i> broken	<i>ma'ayo'o</i> to take <i>eye</i> <i>eye</i>
44.	<i>meya</i> not yet	<i>o'oyo'o</i> do not go	<i>eye</i> <i>eye</i>	
45.	<i>kui</i> sago	<i>hufuruwa</i> to break apart	<i>ma'ayo'o</i> to take	<i>eye</i> <i>eye</i>
46.	<i>ai</i> ai!	<i>meya'are</i> not yet	<i>eye</i> <i>eye</i>	
47.	<i>kui</i> sago	<i>ka'abe</i> difficult	<i>ma'ayo'o</i> to take	<i>eye</i> <i>eye</i>
48.	<i>meya'a</i> not yet	<i>o'oyo'o</i> do not go	<i>eye</i> <i>eye</i>	
49.	<i>kui</i> sago	<i>tirarudia</i> to bundle	<i>ma'ayo'o</i> to take	<i>eye</i> <i>eye</i>
50.	<i>meya'a</i> not yet	<i>o'oyo'o</i> do not go	<i>eye</i> <i>eye</i>	
51.	<i>kui</i> sago	<i>ka'abe</i> difficult	<i>ma'oyo'o</i> to take	<i>eye</i> <i>eye</i>
52.	<i>meye</i> not yet	<i>umona</i> do not go	<i>eye</i> <i>eye</i>	

53.	<i>ibu</i> river	<i>kosega</i> phlegm	<i>hubagiae</i> to spread	<i>eye</i> <i>eye</i>
54.	<i>meye</i> not yet	<i>umona</i> do not go	<i>eye</i> <i>eye</i>	
55.	<i>ibu</i> river	<i>hemomo'o</i> flotsam	<i>bagiae</i> to spread	<i>eye</i> <i>eye</i>
56.	<i>meye</i> not yet	<i>yebihamone</i> to leave	<i>eye</i> <i>eye</i>	

1. Oh sago mallet
2. Strike this sago quickly
3. Miss Sago Mallet
4. Beat this sago quickly
5. You strike the mountain side as you set, Miss
6. Do not fall so quickly
7. You strike the top of the mountain as you sink
8. Do not fall yet
9. Do not come yet
10. You reflect in dappled sparkle off the river
11. Do not fall so quickly
12. You reflect off the river like my image, girl
13. Do not come yet
14. The mountain turns dark as you set, girl
15. Do not come yet
16. You shine through the holes in the fishing nets
17. Do not come yet
18. You scatter the butterflies on the river, Miss
19. Do not fall yet
20. You strike the side of the mountain as you fall

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21. Do not come so quickly
22. Do not come yet
23. I still have to hold my mallet, girl
24. Not yet, girl!
25. Don't make this ground dark yet, girl
26. Don't leave this mountain yet, girl
27. Don't go yet
28. You fly down the Danimi Creek
29. Don't go yet
30. You fall towards the bottom of Mt Yafua
31. Don't leave me yet!
32. You follow the bottom of Mt Kagiri
33. Do not go yet
34. You follow the bottom of Mt Kagiri
35. Don't go yet
36. You fly towards the head of Webi Creek
37. Don't go yet
38. You shine through the top of the ko'oya tree
39. Don't hide from me yet
40. Shining through the bamboos on the mountain top
41. Don't go, I say
42. Don't leave me here
43. I have to still beat sago
44. Do not go yet
45. I have to bundle my sago up
46. Ai! Do not go yet
47. I have to wrap my sago
48. Do not go yet
49. I have to wrap up my sago
50. Do not go yet

51. I have a lot of work to do
 52. Do not go yet
 53. You spread along the river surface like froth
 54. Do not go yet
 55. You sparkle off the river flotsam
 56. Do not leave me yet
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Sago Song 2

Singer: Kunuhuaka. Recorded 26 November 1980
at Hegeso village.

A woman, angry that her husband berates her for not working, rebukes him in the following sago song. (Figure 2 in this volume is a music transcription of lines 10–14.) 🎵 online example 2.

1.	<i>kare</i> women's	<i>kui</i> sago	<i>ini</i> cook	<i>dobo'o</i> spoken	<i>owa</i> <i>owa</i>
2.	<i>nená'a</i> no reason	<i>doma'ae</i> say	<i>owa</i> <i>owa</i>		
3.	<i>waná'aro</i> evening	<i>kui</i> sago	<i>ini</i> cook	<i>dobo'o</i> spoken	<i>owa</i> <i>owa</i>
4.	<i>kama</i> no reason	<i>doma'ae</i> say	<i>eye</i> <i>eye</i>		
5.	<i>nari</i> <i>nari</i> pitpit	<i>hirima</i> plant	<i>diburo</i> talk	<i>owa</i> <i>owa</i>	
6.	<i>nená</i> no reason	<i>doma'ae</i> say	<i>owa</i> <i>owa</i>		
7.	<i>senage</i> <i>senage</i> pitpit	<i>hirima</i> plant	<i>dibure</i> said	<i>owa</i> <i>owa</i>	
8.	<i>kama</i> mind	<i>dee</i> say	<i>eye</i> <i>eye</i>		

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9.	<i>dimu</i> <i>dimu</i> pitpit	<i>hirima</i> plant	<i>dibure</i> said	<i>oye</i> <i>oye</i>		
10.	<i>kama</i> mind	<i>doma'ae</i> tell	<i>eye</i> <i>eye</i>			
11.	<i>sona</i> <i>sona</i>	<i>iburi</i> <i>iburi</i>	<i>hirima</i> plant	<i>dibure</i> said	<i>owa</i> <i>owa</i>	
12.	<i>nená'a</i> no reason	<i>dee</i> say	<i>eye</i> <i>eye</i>			
13.	<i>wāsia</i> pitpit	<i>diamoro</i> <i>diamoro</i>	<i>hirima</i> plant	<i>dibure</i> said	<i>owa</i> <i>owa</i>	
14.	<i>kama</i> mind	<i>doma'ae</i> tell	<i>eye</i> <i>eye</i>			
15.	<i>u'ubi</i> children	<i>kama</i> female	<i>ere</i> mind	<i>dibure</i> said	<i>owa</i> <i>owa</i>	
16.	<i>nená'a</i> no reason	<i>doma'ae</i> tell	<i>doba'abe</i> should say	<i>eye</i> <i>eye</i>		
17.	<i>ira</i> tree	<i>do'a</i> <i>do'a</i>	<i>ga</i> base	<i>nereye</i> burn	<i>dibure</i> said	<i>owa</i> <i>owa</i>
18.	<i>kama'a</i> know	<i>dee</i> say	<i>eye</i> <i>eye</i>			
19.	<i>ira</i> tree	<i>ubi</i> <i>ubi</i>	<i>ga</i> base	<i>nereye</i> burn	<i>dibure</i> said	<i>owa</i> <i>owa</i>
20.	<i>nená'a</i> no reason	<i>doma'ae</i> say	<i>eye</i> <i>eye</i>			
21.	<i>ira</i> tree	<i>senage</i> <i>senage</i>	<i>ga</i> base	<i>kea</i> burn	<i>diburo</i> talk	<i>owa</i> <i>owa</i>
22.	<i>nená'a</i> no reason	<i>doba'abe</i> should say	<i>eye</i> <i>eye</i>			
23.	<i>ira</i> tree	<i>homono</i> <i>homono</i>	<i>ga</i> base	<i>nareye</i> burn	<i>diburo</i> talk	<i>owa</i> <i>owa</i>

24.	<i>kama'a</i> know	<i>dee</i> say	<i>eye</i> <i>eye</i>			
25.	<i>buru</i> black	<i>kirari</i> rope	<i>ma</i> take	<i>dibure</i> said	<i>owa</i> <i>owa</i>	
26.	<i>nená'a</i> no reason	<i>domá'ae</i> say	<i>eye</i> <i>eye</i>			
27.	<i>gābu</i> piebald	<i>kirari</i> rope	<i>ma</i> take	<i>dibure</i> said	<i>owa</i> <i>owa</i>	
28.	<i>nená'a</i> no reason	<i>dee</i> say	<i>eye</i> <i>eye</i>			
29.	<i>waná'ari</i> mid-day	<i>kui</i> sago	<i>ini</i> cook	<i>dibure</i> said	<i>owa</i> <i>owa</i>	
30.	<i>kama'a</i> know	<i>domá'ae</i> tell	<i>eye</i> <i>eye</i>			
31.	<i>kusu</i> cross-cousin	<i>u'ubi</i> children	<i>era</i> mind	<i>diburo</i> talk	<i>owa</i> <i>owa</i>	
32.	<i>nená'a</i> no reason	<i>dee</i> say	<i>eye</i> <i>eye</i>			
33.	<i>ba'a</i> boy	<i>ga</i> belongs to	<i>kui</i> sago	<i>ini</i> cook	<i>dibureo</i> spoken	<i>owa</i> <i>owa</i>
34.	<i>nená'a</i> no reason	<i>to</i> this	<i>iba'ae</i> is	<i>eye</i> <i>eye</i>		
35.	<i>magoro</i> young man	<i>kui</i> sago	<i>ini</i> cook	<i>diburo</i> talk	<i>owa</i> <i>owa</i>	
36.	<i>nená'a</i> no reason	<i>dee</i> say	<i>eye</i> <i>eye</i>			
37.	<i>ibu</i> water	<i>viri</i> fill up	<i>diburo</i> talk	<i>owa</i> <i>owa</i>		
38.	<i>nená'a</i> no reason	<i>domá'ae</i> tell	<i>eye</i> <i>eye</i>			

39.	<i>kumi</i> cross-cousin	<i>ka</i> wife	<i>era</i> mind	<i>dibure</i> said	<i>owa</i> <i>owa</i>
40.	<i>nená'ae</i> for no reason	<i>dee</i> say	<i>eye</i> <i>eye</i>		
41.	<i>kuidobo</i> kuidobo	<i>sa'abiyumo</i> Sa'abiyu	<i>owa</i> <i>owa</i>		
42.	<i>hua</i> killed	<i>mohūgaiye</i> discarded	<i>eye</i> <i>eye</i>		
43.	<i>yuaka</i> Yuaka	<i>iribinunemo</i> Iribinu	<i>owa</i> <i>owa</i>		
44.	<i>humofó'owaiye</i> killed and thrown away		<i>eye</i> <i>eye</i>		

1. 'Cook my evening sago!' you say
2. Without a care, you order me
3. 'Cook my quick sago!' you say
4. For no reason you tell me
5. Go plant the *nari* pitpit
6. For no reason, tell me!
7. Go plant the *senage* pitpit
8. Thoughtlessly, you command me
9. Go plant the *dimu* pitpit
10. Tell me you have a reason!
11. Go plant the *sona iburi* leaves, you say
12. Tell me for no reason
13. Go plant the *diamoro* pitpit, you say
14. You thoughtlessly tell me
15. Feed our little girls, you say
16. Without a care must you tell me
17. Burn the base of the *do'a* tree, you say

18. Tell me what you want
 19. Burn the base of the *ubi* tree, you say
 20. For no reason, tell me!
 21. Burn the base of the *senage* tree, you say
 22. You should tell me for no reason?
 23. Burn the base of the *homono* tree, you say
 24. You should tell me what you are thinking
 25. Take the rope of the black pig, you say
 26. For no reason, you tell me!
 27. Take the rope of the piebald pig, you say
 28. For no reason, you say to me
 29. Cook my quick sago, you order me
 30. Tell me what you are thinking
 31. Mind your little cross-cousins, you say
 32. For no reason, tell me
 33. Mind your sister's child, you tell me
 34. Is this for reason you say
 35. Cook sago for the young men, you say
 36. Say what you are thinking
 37. Fetch water, you say
 38. For no reason, tell me
 39. Fetch water for your cross-cousins' wives, you say
 40. For no reason, tell me
 41. The Kuidobo man, Sa'abiyumo
 42. Killed and left in the bush
 43. His wife, Yuaka, daughter of Iribinu
 44. Killed and thrown away
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Sago Song 3

Singer: Gebo. Recorded 18 October 1980
at Hegeso village.

Gebo, an elderly widow, sang this song about her deceased husband, Kigiri. She recalls the places where her husband made traps, cut wood grubs, and dammed small creeks for fish. Because he can no longer go there, the bush and forest have obliterated the signs of human intervention. The final lines reference their two deceased children (although there were three other children living at the time). The lines also note that although Kigiri was genealogically of a So'onedobo clan lineage, he was adopted by the Orodobo clan and his children were also Orodobo. (See Weiner 1988a:132.) 🎵 online example 3.

1.	<i>ba'a</i> boy	<i>na'a</i> your	<i>ira</i> tree	<i>sabe</i> <i>sabe</i>	<i>hūga</i> larvae	<i>owe</i> <i>owe</i>
2.	<i>aoda'ae</i> bush covered up		<i>owe</i> <i>owe</i>			
3.	<i>ba'a</i> boy	<i>na'a</i> your	<i>ira</i> tree	<i>dabi</i> <i>dabi</i>	<i>bu'uni</i> deadfall	<i>derege</i> <i>eya</i> teach <i>eya</i>
4.	<i>kigiboba'ae</i> tree covered		<i>owe</i> <i>owe</i>			
5.	<i>ba'a</i> boy,	<i>na'a</i> your	<i>sumaniyo</i> Sumani	<i>ibu</i> Creek	<i>eya</i> <i>eya</i>	
6.	<i>kigiboba'ae</i> tree covered		<i>owe</i> <i>owe</i>			
7.	<i>ba'a</i> boy,	<i>na'a</i> your	<i>agegenebo</i> Agegenebo	<i>ibu</i> Creek	<i>eya</i> <i>eya</i>	
8.	<i>aoda'ae</i> bush covered up		<i>owe</i> <i>owe</i>			
9.	<i>ba'a</i> boy	<i>na'a</i> your	<i>gagihimu</i> Gagihimu	<i>ibu</i> Creek	<i>eya</i> <i>eya</i>	

10.	<i>kigiboba'ae</i> tree covered		<i>owe</i> <i>owe</i>		
11.	<i>ba'a</i> boy	<i>na'a</i> your	<i>yafua</i> Yafua	<i>duma</i> mountain	<i>owe</i> <i>owe</i>
12.	<i>ira</i> bush	<i>waboba'ae</i> has covered it up		<i>owe</i> <i>owe</i>	
13.	<i>ba'a</i> boy	<i>na'a</i> your	<i>ira</i> tree	<i>waria</i> <i>waria</i>	<i>bu'uni</i> deadfall <i>owe</i> <i>owe</i>
14.	<i>aoda'ae</i> bush covered up		<i>owe</i> <i>owe</i>		
15.	<i>agegenebo</i> Agegenebo	<i>ibu</i> Creek	<i>owe</i> <i>owe</i>		
16.	<i>aoda'ae</i> bush covered up		<i>owe</i> <i>owe</i>		
17.	<i>ferorohimu</i> Ferorohimu	<i>ibu</i> Creek	<i>owe</i> <i>owe</i>		
18.	<i>kigiboba'ae</i> tree covered		<i>owe</i> <i>owe</i>		
19.	<i>yahadenabo</i> Yahadenabo	<i>ibu</i> Creek	<i>owe</i> <i>owe</i>		
20.	<i>aoda'ae</i> bush covered up		<i>owe</i> <i>owe</i>		
21.	<i>gorega</i> Gorega	<i>ibu</i> Creek	<i>owe</i> <i>owe</i>		
22.	<i>aoda'ae</i> bush covered up		<i>owe</i> <i>owe</i>		
23.	<i>orodobo</i> Orodobo	<i>ka</i> woman	<i>fumaruwame</i> Fumaruwame	<i>ma'ame</i> thing	<i>eya</i> <i>eya</i>
24.	<i>ba'a</i> boy	<i>aruweye</i> Aruweye	<i>owe</i> <i>owe</i>		

25.	<i>ira</i>	<i>so'onedobo</i>	<i>bugimena</i>	<i>ma'ame</i>	<i>eya</i>
	line	So'onedobo	Bugimena	thing	eya

26.	<i>kigiri-a</i>	<i>owe</i>
	Kigiri	<i>owe</i>

1. Boy, your *sabe* tree wood grubs
2. The bush has covered them up
3. Boy, the place where you showed [others] where you made your *dabi* tree traps
4. The bush has covered them up
5. Boy, your Sumani Creek
6. The bush has covered it up
7. Boy, your Agegenebo Creek
8. The bush has covered it up
9. Boy, your Gagihimu Creek
10. The bush has covered it up
11. Boy, your Yafua Mountain
12. The bush has covered it up
13. Boy, your *waria* tree deadfall
14. The bush has covered it up
15. Agegenebo Creek
16. The bush has covered it up
17. Ferorohimu Creek
18. The bush has covered it up
19. Yahadenabo Creek
20. The bush has covered it up
21. Gorega Creek
22. The bush has covered it up
23. (My) deceased Orodobo clan daughter Fumaruwame
24. (My) deceased son Aruweye

25. The line of the So'onedobo man Bugimena
 26. Kigiri
-

Sago Song 4

Singer: Kunuhuaka. Recorded 26 November 1980
 at Hegeso village.

As I described in *The Empty Place*, Kunuhuaka's mother taught her this song. She composed it once when she was at Ayamo and her son Ta'anobo became lost. She called out to him at the places she searched for him, but only heard the sound of the birds calling, *ii! wo! wo!* (See Weiner 1988a:132–33; 1991:20–22.)

🎵 online example 4.

1.	<i>me</i> place	<i>huraro</i> empty	<i>ya</i> bird	<i>sisiyu</i> <i>sisiyu</i>	<i>eye</i> <i>eye</i>
2.	<i>me</i> speech	<i>odo'oiye</i> cannot speak		<i>eye</i> <i>eye</i>	
3.	<i>duma</i> mountain	<i>hau</i> side	<i>me</i> place	<i>ya</i> bird	<i>u-o</i> <i>u</i> <i>eya</i> <i>eye</i>
4.	<i>me</i> speech	<i>odibikerayiye</i> does not speak		<i>owa</i> <i>owa</i>	
5.	<i>kui</i> sago	<i>yamo</i> <i>yamo</i>	<i>ya</i> bird	<i>sisiyu</i> <i>sisiyu</i>	<i>eye</i> <i>eye</i>
6.	<i>megenebo</i> you only	<i>deyiye</i> do not speak			
7.	<i>kui</i> sago	<i>gabe</i> <i>gabe</i>	<i>ya</i> bird	<i>muri-e</i> <i>muri</i>	<i>eye</i> <i>eye</i>
8.	<i>na'abo</i> to you	<i>deyiye</i> do not speak			
9.	<i>ibu</i> creek	<i>ama'afu</i> Ama'afu	<i>geno</i> river bend	<i>ya</i> bird	<i>sisiyu</i> <i>sisiyu</i>

Songs of the Empty Place

10.	<i>nebo</i> you alone	<i>deyiye</i> do not speak			
11.	<i>ibu</i> creek	<i>firigiri</i> Firigiri	<i>tage</i> mouth	<i>ya</i> bird	<i>u</i> <i>u</i>
12.	<i>megenebo</i> you only	<i>deyiye</i> do not speak			
13.	<i>ibu</i> creek	<i>segenabi</i> Segenabi	<i>ya</i> bird	<i>u</i> <i>u</i>	
14.	<i>ne</i> you	<i>odibikerayiye</i> do not speak			
15.	<i>ibu</i> creek	<i>saburuba</i> Saburaba	<i>ya</i> bird	<i>muri-o</i> <i>muri</i>	
16.	<i>ne</i> you	<i>odeyiye</i> do not speak			
17.	<i>ibu</i> creek	<i>dāri</i> Dāri	<i>ya</i> bird	<i>sisiyē</i> <i>sisiyu</i>	
18.	<i>ne</i> you	<i>odeyiye</i> do not speak			
19.	<i>duma</i> mountain	<i>sobore</i> Sobore	<i>kigiri</i> base		
20.	<i>megene</i> you only	<i>odeyiye</i> do not call out			
21.	<i>ibu</i> creek	<i>guratōa</i> Guratōa	<i>tage</i> mouth	<i>ya</i> bird	<i>u</i> <i>u</i>
22.	<i>ne</i> you	<i>odibikerayiye</i> do not call out			
23.	<i>kui</i> sago	<i>dāre</i> <i>dāre</i>	<i>ya</i> bird	<i>sisiyē-o</i> <i>sisiyu</i>	
24.	<i>ne</i> you	<i>odibikiribubiye</i> do not speak out			

25.	<i>kui</i> sago	<i>yamo</i> <i>yamo</i>	<i>ya</i> bird	<i>sisiye-o</i> <i>sisiyu</i>
26.	<i>na'a</i> you	<i>odeyiye</i> do not speak		
27.	<i>yegena</i> Yegena	<i>ya</i> bird	<i>muri-o</i> <i>muri</i>	
28.	<i>ne</i> you	<i>odeyiye</i> do not call out		
29.	<i>sui</i> cane	<i>geroa</i> <i>gerewa</i>	<i>ya</i> bird	<i>muri-o</i> <i>muri</i>
30.	<i>ne</i> you	<i>odeyiye</i> do not call out		
31.	<i>yegena</i> Yegena	<i>awa</i> empty place	<i>ya</i> bird	<i>sisiye</i> <i>sisiyu</i>
32.	<i>mero</i> another	<i>odo'oyiye</i> cannot call out		
33.	<i>duma</i> mountain	<i>weyeru</i> Weyeru	<i>ya</i> bird	<i>muri-o</i> <i>muri</i>
34.	<i>na</i> you	<i>odibihayiye</i> do not call out		
35.	<i>ibu</i> creek	<i>ĩsa</i> Ĩsa	<i>ya</i> bird	<i>yiyo</i> <i>yiyo</i>
36.	<i>nere</i> you alone	<i>odibihayiye</i> do not call out		
37.	<i>ibu</i> creek	<i>dāri</i> Dāri	<i>ya</i> bird	<i>muri-o</i> <i>muri</i>
38.	<i>na'abore</i> you only	<i>deyiye</i> do not speak		
39.	<i>aboragemo</i> Aboragemo	<i>ya</i> bird	<i>u</i> <i>u</i>	

40. *nebo* *dibihayiye*
 you alone do not speak

41. *abu* *biri-o*
 mallet this

42. *a'a* *huma'ae*
 quickly strike

43. *ta'anobo* *ma'ame* *odibua*
 Ta'anobo thing calls out

44. *dibikerage*
 keeps calling out

45. *ya* *ya'oe* *ma'ame* *diburo*
 bird namesake thing talk

46. *dibihage*
 keeps calling out

1. In this uninhabited place I hear the *sisiyu* bird
2. But I hear no men
3. The mountain side, the *u* bird
4. But I hear no men's speech
5. At the place of the *yamo sago*, the *sisiyu* bird
6. But you only I hear not
7. Where the *gabe sago* is, the *muri* bird
8. But to me you do not speak
9. At the bend in Ama'afu Creek, the *sisiyu* bird
10. But you alone do not speak
11. At the mouth of the Fifigiri Creek, the *u* bird
12. But you alone speak not
13. At Segenabi Creek, the *u* bird
14. But you do not call out
15. At Saburuba Creek, the *muri* bird
16. But you do not speak

17. At Dāri Creek, the *sisiyu* bird
 18. But you do not speak
 19. At the base of Mt Sobore
 20. You only do not call out
 21. At the mouth of Guratōa Creek, the *u* bird
 22. But you do not sing out
 23. At the place of the *dāre* sago, the *sisiyu* bird
 24. But you do not speak
 25. At the place of the *yamo* sago, the *sisiyu* bird
 26. But you I hear not
 27. At Yegena, the *muri* bird
 28. But you do not call out
 29. At the place of the *geroa* cane, the *muri* bird
 30. But you do not call out
 31. At the empty place Yegena, the *sisiyu* bird
 32. But I hear no other sound
 33. At Mt Weyeru, the *muri* bird
 34. But you do not call out
 35. At Īsa Creek, the *yiyo* bird
 36. But you alone do not call out
 37. At Dāri Creek, the *muri* bird
 38. But you only do not speak
 39. At Aboragemo Creek, the *u* bird
 40. But you alone do not speak
 41. This sago mallet
 42. Strike quickly
 43. Ta'anobo is calling out
 44. He keeps calling out
 45. Ta'anobo's namesake, the bird
 46. He keeps calling out
-

Sago Song 5

Singer: Gebo. Recorded 18 October 1980
at Hegeso village.

In *The Empty Place*, I related how Gebo composed this song after her son, Yaroge, was taken to Mendi for questioning by the police following the suicide of his wife. As in the previous song, the silence of the addressed man is heightened in a dramatic way by contrasting it with the sound of something else, in this case, the aeroplane rather than birds. Gebo also refers to the white shirt and shoes which is the educated, white-collar Papua New Guinean's typical clothing. (See Weiner 1991:126–27, 139–41.) 🎵 online example 5.

1.	<i>ba'a</i> boy	<i>na'a</i> your	<i>bare</i> aeroplane	<i>awa</i> up	<i>hua</i> struck	<i>ubo'ora</i> gone	<i>eya</i> <i>eya</i>
2.	<i>do'oyera</i> did not tell		<i>owe</i> <i>owe</i>				
3.	<i>ba'a</i> boy	<i>na'a</i> you	<i>bare</i> aeroplane	<i>kuabogabo'ore</i> hummed		<i>eya</i> <i>eya</i>	
4.	<i>dia</i> saying	<i>o'abibi-o</i> wanted to	<i>eya</i> <i>eya</i>				
5.	<i>ba'a</i> boy	<i>na'a</i> your	<i>kabe</i> man	<i>ensu</i> shoes	<i>ababo</i> walk	<i>hibabo'ore</i> embark	<i>owe</i> <i>owe</i>
6.	<i>nabo</i> to me	<i>do'oyere</i> did not say	<i>owe</i> <i>owe</i>				
7.	<i>do'abibidobo</i> could not tell		<i>owe</i> <i>owe</i>				
8.	<i>ba'a</i> boy	<i>na'a</i> your	<i>kosa'a</i> shirt	<i>fabo</i> white	<i>hibabo'ore</i> embark	<i>eya</i> <i>eya</i>	
9.	<i>do'oyera</i> did not tell		<i>owe</i> <i>owe</i>				
10.	<i>ba'a</i> boy	<i>na'a</i> your	<i>kosa'a</i> shirt	<i>namuyu</i> cockatoo	<i>ababo</i> walk	<i>hibabo'ore</i> embark	<i>eya</i> <i>eya</i>

11.	<i>dia</i> saying	<i>o'oyera</i> did not go	<i>owe</i> <i>owe</i>			
12.	<i>ba'a</i> boy	<i>na'a</i> your	<i>duma</i> mountain	<i>a'o</i> cloud	<i>hugoreye</i> pierced	<i>ubo'ore</i> gone <i>eya</i> <i>eya</i>
13.	<i>dia</i> saying	<i>o'abibi-o</i> wanted to	<i>owe</i> <i>owe</i>			
14.	<i>fufu</i> neck	<i>masibu</i> necklace	<i>hua</i> mother	<i>owe</i> <i>owe</i>		
15.	<i>do'oyera</i> did not tell		<i>owe</i> <i>owe</i>			
16.	<i>ya</i> arm	<i>masibu</i> necklace	<i>hua</i> mother	<i>owe</i> <i>owe</i>		
17.	<i>dia</i> saying	<i>u'abibio</i> should have	<i>owe</i> <i>owe</i>			
18.	<i>gō</i> string bag		<i>hage</i> two	<i>hagikabo'ore</i> carried	<i>owe</i> <i>owe</i>	
19.	<i>dia</i> saying	<i>o'abibi-o</i> wanted to	<i>owe</i> <i>owe</i>			
20.	<i>awa</i> hand	<i>masibu</i> necklace	<i>hua</i> mother	<i>owe</i> <i>owe</i>		
21.	<i>dia</i> saying	<i>o'oyera</i> did not go	<i>owe</i> <i>owe</i>			
22.	<i>orodobo</i> Orodobo	<i>ka</i> woman	<i>gebo</i> Gebo	<i>ma'ame</i> thing	<i>eya</i> <i>eya</i>	
23.	<i>yaroge-o</i> Yaroge	<i>owe</i> <i>owe</i>				
24.	<i>so'onedobo</i> So'onedobo		<i>kigirimone</i> Kigiri	<i>owe</i> <i>owe</i>		
25.	<i>ka'ariba</i> Ka'ariba		<i>owe</i> <i>owe</i>			

Songs of the Empty Place

1. Boy, you have ascended in your aeroplane
 2. But you didn't tell me
 3. Boy, we heard your aeroplane hum as it flew away
 4. You wanted to tell me but you didn't
 5. You put on your shoes and embarked
 6. But to me you said nothing
 7. You wanted to tell me, but you could not
 8. You put on your white shirt and embarked
 9. But you did not tell me
 10. You put on your shirt, white as a cockatoo, and left
 11. But you didn't tell me before you left
 12. You pierced the clouds as you flew away
 13. You wanted to tell me but you couldn't
 14. I am the mother of the widow's *kamora* necklace
 15. You didn't tell me
 16. I am the mother of the *kamora* wrist band
 17. You should have told me before you left
 18. You took your two suitcases
 19. You wanted to tell me but you couldn't
 20. I am the mother of the widow's *kamora*
 21. You didn't tell me before you left
 22. The Orodobo clan woman, Gebo
 23. Yaroge
 24. The So'onedobo man, Kigiri
 25. Ka'ariba
-

Sago Song 6

Singer: Kunuhuaka (with Siyame).

Recorded 23 March 1988 at Hegeso village.

This is another song addressing the sun maiden. This time, the singer, Kunuhuaka thinks about her eldest son, Bebe, who is assigned to a patrol boat with the Papua New Guinea Defence Force at Lombrum Patrol Base in Manus Province. She thinks of the sun shining off the guns on his ship and the ship's prow, even as it shines over Kunuhuaka's head while she is working. (See Weiner 1991:128–34; Figure 3 in this volume is a music transcription of lines 10–15.) 🎵 online example 6.

1.	<i>humotorohahaibi</i> to break through	<i>weya'a</i> comes		
2.	<i>na'a</i> you	<i>ibiba'ae</i> is		
3.	<i>eye</i> <i>eye</i>			
4.	<i>iri</i> tree	<i>fagi</i> branches	<i>si'abi</i> to search for	<i>weya'a</i> comes
5.	<i>ne</i> you	<i>ibiba'ae</i> is		
6.	<i>eye</i> <i>eye</i>			
7.	<i>ira</i> tree	<i>so'oboro</i> canopy	<i>sebe</i> search for	<i>weya'a</i> comes
8.	<i>na'a</i> you	<i>ibiba'ae</i> is		
9.	<i>eye</i> <i>eye</i>			
10.	<i>humeseseregaibi</i> to shine	<i>weya'a</i> comes		

Songs of the Empty Place

-
11. *ne* *ibiba'ae*
you is
-
12. *eye*
eye
-
13. *kui* *gaboba'ae* *foraye* *weya'a*
sago base-is break through comes
-
14. *na'a* *ibiba'ae*
you is
-
15. *eye*
eye
-
16. *ũgi* *abotu'u* *kama'uri* *meya'a*
breadfruit *abotu'u* top not yet
-
17. *na'a* *ibiba'ae*
you is
-
18. *eye*
eye
-
19. *humeseseregaibi* *weya'a*
to shine comes
-
20. *na'a* *ibiba'ae*
you is
-
21. *eye*
eye
-
22. *kaubi* *weya'a*
region comes
-
23. *ne* *ibiba'ae*
you is
-
24. *eye*
eye
-
25. *eresaiibi* *weya'a*
to look after comes
-

-
26. *na'a* *ibiba'ae*
 you is
-
27. *eye*
 eye
-
28. *humotorohahaibi* *weya'a*
 to break through comes
-
29. *ne* *ibiba'ae*
 you is
-
30. *eye*
 eye
-
31. *ira* *so'oboro* *sebe* *weya'a*
 tree canopy search for comes
-
32. *na'a* *ibiba'ae*
 you is
-
33. *eye*
 eye
-
34. *kui* *gaboba'a* *kamu'uri* *meya'a*
 sago base-is top not yet
-
35. *ne* *ibiba'ae*
 you is
-
36. *eye*
 eye
-
37. *sibi* *arori* *hiba'ane* *uba'a*
 ship prow to embark gone
-
38. *na'a* *ibiba'ae*
 you is
-
39. *eye*
 eye
-
40. *gagaruri* *hiba'ane* *uba'a*
 to carry to embark gone
-

Songs of the Empty Place

41. *na'a* *ibiba'ae*
you is

42. *eye*
eye

43. *awa'a* *bareri* *hiba'ane* *uba'a*
sky vessel to embark gone

44. *ne* *ibiba'ae*
you is

45. *eye*
eye

46. *borowame* *humogore'ane* *uba'ae*
aquatic bird to scatter gone

47. *na'a* *ibiba'ae*
you is

48. *eye*
eye

49. *bagua* *humogoreye* *uba'a*
aquatic bird to scatter gone

50. *na'a* *ibiba'ae*
you is

51. *eye*
eye

52. *e* *kabo* *sere-o*
eh girl sun-o

53. *na'abo* *dibu-o*
to you I speak

54. *eye*
eye

55. *e* *kabo* *wāga-o*
eh girl Clear-oh

56. *nebo* *dibu-o*
 you alone I speak

57. *eye*
eye

58. *e* *kabo* *yuri-o*
 eh girl *Yuri-oh*

59. *na'abo* *iba'ae*
 to you is

60. *eye*
eye

-
1. You break through the clouds as you come
 2. It is you
 3. *eye*
 4. You peek through the tree branches as you come
 5. It is you
 6. *eye*
 7. You break through the tree canopy as you come
 8. It is you
 9. *eye*
 10. You shine as you come
 11. It is you
 12. *eye*
 13. You break through the sago palms as you come
 14. It is you
 15. *eye*
 16. Don't peek through the top of the *abotu'u* breadfruit yet
 17. It is you
 18. *eye*
 19. You shine as you come

Songs of the Empty Place

20. It is you
21. *eye*
22. You look out over the whole land as you come
23. It is you
24. *eye*
25. You watch over the whole land as you come
26. It is you
27. *eye*
28. You break through the clouds as you come
29. It is you
30. *eye*
31. You peek through the top branches as you come
32. It is you
33. *eye*
34. Don't you light up the sago palms yet
35. It is you
36. *eye*
37. You light up the prow of his departing ship
38. It is you
39. *eye*
40. You light up the guns carried by his departing ship
41. It is you
42. *eye*
43. You light up the aeroplane as he embarked and left
44. It is you
45. *eye*
46. You cause the egrets to scatter over the Lake
47. It is you
48. *eye*
49. You cause the *bagua* birds to scatter over the Lake

50. It is you
 51. *eye*
 52. Oh, Miss Daytime
 53. It is to you I am speaking
 54. *eye*
 55. Oh Miss Clear Light
 56. To you alone I speak
 57. *eye*
 58. Oh, Miss Yuri
 59. It is to you I speak
 60. *eye*
-

Sago Song 7

Singer: Kunuhuaka (with Siyame).

Recorded 23 March 1988 at Hegeso village.

Bebe's army uniforms, washed and hanging out to dry, remind Kunuhuaka of the leaf of the stinging nettle. She sings of these uniforms, and Bebe's hat, and rifle: 'are these things sufficient to replace your brothers and other relatives with whom you no longer live? Will they protect you as well as these relatives do?' (See Weiner 1991:134–38.) 🎵 online example 7.

1.	<i>yengi</i> nettles	<i>banima</i> <i>banima</i>	<i>ba</i> that	
2.	<i>ba'a</i> boy	<i>na'a</i> your	<i>hame</i> brother	<i>wae</i> not
3.	<i>eye</i> <i>eye</i>			
4.	<i>yengi</i> nettles	<i>boro</i> <i>boro</i>	<i>ba</i> that	

Songs of the Empty Place

5.	<i>ba'a</i> boy	<i>na'a</i> brother	<i>wame</i> not	<i>wae</i>	
6.	<i>eye</i> <i>eye</i>				
7.	<i>yengi</i> nettles	<i>gugabe</i> flying fox	<i>ba</i> that		
8.	<i>ba'a</i> boy	<i>na'a</i> your	<i>base</i> sister's husband	<i>wae</i> not	
9.	<i>eye</i> <i>eye</i>				
10.	<i>ganuga</i> hat	<i>boge</i> club	<i>aba</i> father	<i>ba</i> that	
11.	<i>ba'a</i> boy	<i>na'a</i> your	<i>kabe</i> man	<i>wame</i> brother	<i>wae</i> not
12.	<i>eye</i> <i>eye</i>				
13.	<i>ganuga</i> hat	<i>boge</i> club	<i>aba</i> father	<i>ba</i> that	
14.	<i>ba'a</i> boy	<i>na'a</i> your	<i>base</i> sister's husband	<i>wae</i> not	
15.	<i>eye</i> <i>eye</i>				
16.	<i>bi'a</i> rifle	<i>fore</i> large	<i>aba</i> father	<i>ba</i> that	
17.	<i>ba'a</i> boy	<i>na'a</i> your	<i>aba</i> father	<i>wae</i> not	
18.	<i>eye</i> <i>eye</i>				
19.	<i>bare</i> canoe	<i>sibi</i> ship	<i>ba</i> that		

20.	<i>ba'a</i> boy	<i>na'a</i> your	<i>hua</i> mother	<i>wae</i> not
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21. *eye*
eye

22.	<i>sabe</i> knife	<i>sode</i> sheath
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23.	<i>ba'a</i> boy	<i>na'a</i> your	<i>ana</i> sister	<i>wae</i> not
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24. *eye*
eye

25.	<i>oro</i> bamboo	<i>yerebi</i> <i>yerebi</i>	<i>ba'a</i> boy	<i>terewaro</i> Terewaro
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26.	<i>na'abo</i> to you	<i>dibu-o</i> I speak
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27. *eye*
eye

28.	<i>kui</i> sago	<i>kenege</i> mid-rib	<i>ba'a</i> boy	<i>bebe</i> Bebe
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29.	<i>na'abo</i> to you	<i>dibu-o</i> I speak
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30. *eye*
eye

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1. Your *banima* nettles hanging there
 2. It's not your brother
 3. *eye*
 4. Your *boro* nettles there
 5. It's not your brother
 6. *eye*
 7. Your nettles hanging like flying foxes

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8. It's not your brother-in-law
 9. *eye*
 10. The owner of the club-shaped army hat
 11. It's not your Mister brother
 12. *eye*
 13. The owner of the club-shaped army hat
 14. It's not your sister's husband
 15. *eye*
 16. The owner of your big rifle
 17. It's not your father
 18. *eye*
 19. The sea going ship
 20. It's not your mother
 21. *eye*
 22. Your bayonet sheath
 23. It's not your sister
 24. *eye*
 25. The *yerebi* bamboo clan boy Terewaro
 26. It is to you I am speaking
 27. *eye*
 28. The Sago mid-rib clan boy Bebe
 29. It is you I am speaking
 30. *eye*
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This text is taken from *Songs of the Empty Place: The Memorial Poetry of the Foi of the Southern Highlands Province of Papua New Guinea*, by James F. Weiner and Don Niles, published 2015 by ANU Press, The Australian National University, Canberra, Australia.