

'Epeli
...the man...the myth...
martyr...the mana

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'Epeli was a larger than *life* figure.

His *beard* and genial visage was reinforced by an ever present twinkle in his *eye*.

He had a *boundless* capacity for *humour*, as well as an understated tongue in cheek manner. 'Epeli never took himself *seriously*.

His satirical novels 'Tales of the Tikongs' and 'Kisses in the Nederends' poke *gentle* fun at us and our dealings with the world.

They also convey 'Epeli's character in a more *personal* manner than his *academic* writings

(Ratu Joni Madraiwiwi, *Fiji Times*).

'Epeli the writer

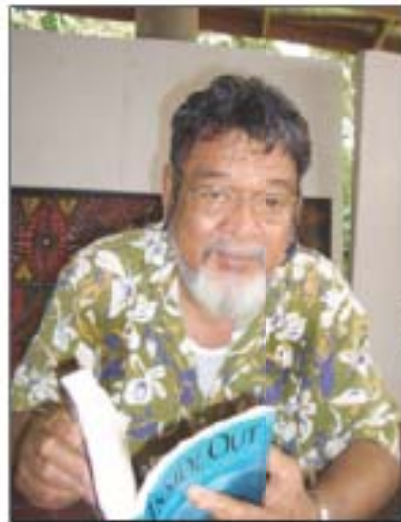
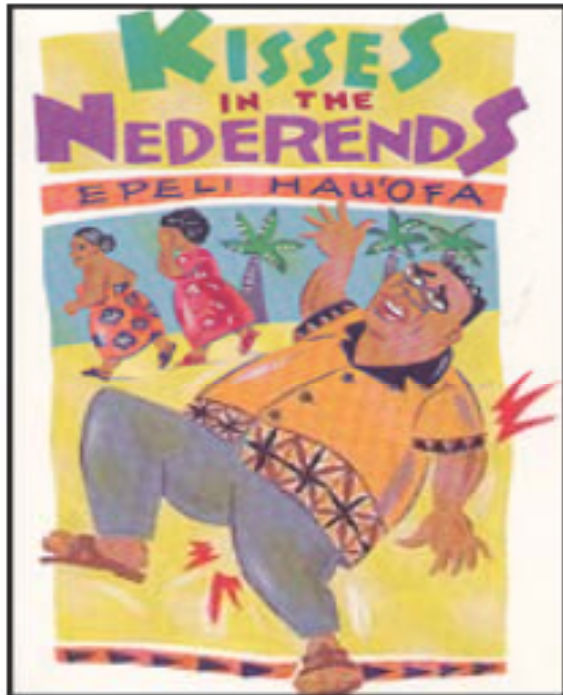


Image Courtesy: Chli Harris



The syncretic man...

- Social reality and cosmology
- Social critique and conformity
- Humour and seriousness
- Art and farts
- Sensitivity and ignorance
- Trans-boundary and defined identity
- Sophistry and conservative
- Simplicity of body and complexity of mind

The transboundary myth

- 'Epeli, embodiment of myth:
Spirituality
- No fixed plane, identity, fluid like the
ocean
- Oceania art: Mythology and
symbolisms
- Life embedded in nature and
spirituality

The Oceanic martyr...

- The ocean in us
- We are the ocean
- Our sea of islands
- Redefining ourselves, identity, being
- Relativity: Sense of significance
- Mainstreaming of Oceanic paradigm
- Critics: Romanticism
- Died a reformist, Oceanic martyr

The eternal mana...

- Gift from heaven
- Can't paint, can't dance, can't sing, can't carve: but spiritually gifted in all these
- Leaves behind legacy: Not be an expert to possess mana
- Mana internally generated: self and cosmology

Fading images: RIP 'Epeli

