APPENDIX - II

SETU EPIC PEKO

The contents of the Peko Epic by Anne Vabarna

1. **The birth of Peko**: The singer announces she is singing about a person who died long ago, who was a tall and strong man, who had the faith of singers (orthodox), and who was unmistakably a setu. Then Peko’s mother is described. Giving birth to Peko was so difficult that she had to call in Jesus and Maria for help, they did help her, and Peko survived. The child had ribs and length of an ell (about 45 inches long) and knuckles as big as fists. Then candles were lit. Prayers were offered for his health and good luck the length of an ell and as many inches high as the candle was burning.

2. **The christening of Peko**: Jesus baptized the child and gave him the name Pekolainen. Jesus and Maria rocked the child and wish that Peko would be allowed to grow as tall as a pine and as high as a spruce, and that he would be a strong man. After the christening there was a great deal of singing.

3. **Peko grows up**: Six weeks went by happily in the farm house. One night mother heard rustling from the cradle, when Peko started to stand up. He grew to be a tall man, higher than a spruce, taller than a pine, stronger than a deer, stronger than a bear. Peko made a shock of rye grass, as majestic as a king. After he had brought it, it took fifty men to haul it up. Peko was a famous all over the country.
4. **Peko asks for permission to propose**: Peko wanted to get married, to give his mother a helper, her fingers a listener. Mother was pleased at this, and she gave permission to propose to whoever he wanted. He had thousands who came and hundreds who consented. Father did not deny his permission either.

5. **Mother’s dream**: Mother dreamt that the boy had to go to a town which is surrounded by the sea, a fishing bank on each side. There would be the maid Nabra, a beautiful child, an eminent maid, though homeless. Peko could go after her, ride a hundreds horses. Peko said he is familiar to the town.

6. **Peko’s courting**: Mother made quickly provisions. Peko curried his horse and mounted it. The parents were crying and told the boy to go, pleasing Jesus according to Maria’s orders.

   So the boy started to ride so that “the road was shaking and rattling, the marsh tufts were clattering and stumps of pine were wrangling”. Nabra’s laughing face was seen, and Peko found that his mother’s wonderous dream had become true. Peko proposed, the girl agreed and said she had been waiting for him for a long time already. The girl promised to send a bird to bear a message when Peko could come to fetch her. The suitor got plenty to eat and drink.

   Then Peko rode through town and arrived home after a while. Peko gave his father an apple and his mother an arctic bramble. When asked where he got them, he answered they were sent by a welcome daughter-in-law.
7. **Wedding Preparations**: The malt is being soaked and the malted barley is ground by hand with millstones. The messenger bird had already arrived under the back window. Peko sat on a mouse-coloured horse and rode off with the foaming horse to invite his kinsmen. Mother prepared wedding food all day and night.

8. **Peko’s and Nabra’s wedding**: All the kinsmen came together. Peko gathered the wedding guests. Mother dressed up well, made herself looked impressive. A wise man left the house, taking with him a sword like a paddle.

   The wedding guests arrived ceremoniously at the bride’s home. The feast was grand. Peko hurried the bride to dress up more quickly and told her to leave for her new home, but Jesus soothed him. The wedding guests began to go when Peko fired his gun. Peko’s mother prepared the food at home, and both parents went to meet the bride, turning the furcoats inside out. The parents arranged a welcome party, the gusts sang all the night. Everyday received the bride well.

9. **Everyday life**: Peko’s spring sowing was successful and crop prospered well. The life of the young couple went on happily. Young wife Nabra’s singing helped the rains fall and promote the growth of the crop, and she produced rain for others, too, in Russia and on the Oesel Island. Nabra did her tasks at home in exemplary fashion.

10. **Peko’s son**: Two sons were born on the couple, first Jorosk and then Merosk, who became good singers, Merosk also a player.

11. **Peko’s club**: Peko found an oak club in the field. Peko interpreted the numbers and writings on it that he was to put the club in a chest and to
take it when needed, for example when the crop grew poorly or when war was waged. In war he could kill enemies with the club like drizzle.

12. **The death of Peko's father**: Peko's father became ill. Peko fetched on horse ten doctors and five herb soakers. Although father drank the herb broth, the angels took his spirit quietly. An old man came from the village and washed the dead man with the water from the river Puisa. When he was taken to the burial ground, even the spruces and pines were weeping.

13. **The illness and dead of Peko's mother**: Peko's son heated up the sauna. Then Peko carried his old mother to the sauna where she was washed by her daughter-in-law. Peko's mother was very grateful. In the house Merosk played the kantele for his grandmother. She asked her daughter-in-law and Peko to come to her and told them that in her dream her dead husband was already missing her. She declared her will to give her dowry and her cloths to her daughter-in-law. She also promised to leave Nabra the cattle to care for and Peko the spring crop to tend and she promised luck with crop and cattle. She asked Peko to take from the trunk the shirt and socks she had knitted if war broke out. When wearing those socks Peko would be tall as a pile of stacked wood, high as a spruce, and with that shirt on he would defeat his enemies.

Grandmother asked the boys not to mourn after her death, but to play. Then she asked for the death cloths she had woven. Jorosk made the coffin. The daughter-in-law was weeping at the well and her cows were weeping. At the funeral Nabra invited the widows of the village to eat the oatmeal soup she had made.
14. **Peko's going to war**: The war started, as his father and mother had foretold. Peko wanted to go there to help. He asked his wife to take from the trunk the shirt and the socks woven by his mother, and he put them on. Furthermore he asked his sons to bring from the trunk the club given by his father, and he said he would be gone three days at war, four or five in blood, and he asked his family to come and help him. He also took the sword, which was shaped like paddle. The candle foretold that when he came home, Peko would be a king, king of the fields. Peko left his home in good spirits. He told Nabra that Jesus and Maria had informed him already in a dream that the lads Peeter, Paavel and Ants and the girl Anne, Katre and Hedo should be named as keepers of the home if Nabra went with her sons to look for Peko.

The families accompanies Peko, who tells his companions return from his forest dwelling, near the sand pit. Peko leaves the pit after a sparrow brings a message that Jesus is already waiting for the strong man to go to battle.

15. **Peko in battle**: In the battle he started to brandish his club and killed as many men as there are flies in the summer. Then he put the club to rest under a stone, but enemies from five lands surrounded him. Then his shirt told him to be quick and his socks told him to attack. Peko pulled his sword from its sheath and struck down five lands and four kings. He fought for many days, many nights until down.

16. **The arresting of Peko**: At night Peko fell asleep and his enemies in and seized his sword his sword. However, negotiated with them and promised to help make their countries rich. The Russians became glad and allowed the lad to rest.
17. The death of Jorosk and the arresting of Nabra: Nabra cried for Peko, and the family left to search for him. Six men were asked to look after the house. On the way a lark told the family that nabra would be captured by the enemies and Jorosk would be killed. Merosk stayed in Peko's sand pit to play the kantele, and Nabra and Jorosk left the front. They found Peko and Jorosk embraced him. Father and son started to escape. But Jorosk fell on a stone and his enemies killed him. Nabra was not killed because she promised to sing war songs about the people of Russia. She walked singing from house to house. Jesus and the angels visited her every day and brought her news from home.

18. Peko withdraws from war and becomes king: Peko grieved over his dead son. The club advised him to go to his pit, where the younger son was waiting. Peko left, and on the way a cuckoo asked where the king, the young God of the field, was going. Peko told Merosk about the fate of Jorosk. Jesus told Merosk to go home, where he would one of the keepers of the home would become his wife. Jesus told Peko not to mourn for Jorosk, whom he would take to heaven, as he had promised, he crowned Peko as king of the setu people and God of the field.

19. The marriage of Anne and Merosk: Merosk went home, as Jesus had told him, and he proposed to Anne. She answered that she didn't want to agree before she herself could talk it over with Jesus and Maria. Merosk paid the keepers of the house with reindeer skins. Anne left together with the other keepers to go to Jesus and told him that Merosk wanted to marry her; Jesus gave his consent. Anne spent the night with Jesus and Maria. She couldn't sleep when thinking about her life in her new home.
Anne pleased Jesus, who gave her as a farewell present gold, silver and a cow, and he gave her luck with the harvest, too.

Jesus wanted then to travel very quietly because the bride-groom was in mourning. Merosk met them playing the kantele, sat by them, and they rode together unnoticed to the bridegroom’s home, without being seen by the village, unnoticed by the women of the neighborhood. Jesus married the couple, put together the little cranes, made a couple of the little wild ducks.

20. **The young couple at Peko’s**: Anne and Merosk went to Peko’s pit and persuaded him to go their home. However, Peko said he didn’t have time to go as was having a lot of trouble as emperor. But Peko promised his son to cultivate his crop well and to display, who was to his liking.

21. **Peko hunts**: Peko had a new sword made by the most famous smiths of the country. As soon as the sword was forged, he hunted deer and bears with his club and took their pelts also to Merosk.

    Peko’s sword was ready. Peko took the sword like a fly, though the smiths were not able to lift it. Peko promised that deer and bear would no more spoil the fields of the smiths. He killed more deer and bears and offered their pelts to the village men. He also took a deer to a poor man and told his family to make fur coats and cloths out of it.

22. **Peko, King of the Fields**: In spring and the summer he took his club, went to the fields, and displayed the club to the barely and oats, according to his father’s will. All the ploughmen bowed to Peko. The crop came up well. In autumn there were oats up to the ceiling, barley to the ridgepole, rye to the eaves. Everybody thanked Peko. Everybody had enough bread.
23. Peko's thoughts of his funeral: Peko was already thinking about dying and he went to the smiths and asked them to measure his ribs and to forge an iron rib as long as his own until a cloister was built. There beside the church a statue, along with the forged rib, would be raised in his memory. The smiths began to forge.

24. Peko's dream: The next night Peko saw dreams which he went to speak to the people from the ridge of a mountain, as if in a mountain sermon. Peko foretold the future according to his dreams. He foretold times when there would be railways and trains (which he described as geldings), telephone poles and radios (speech on the air). He also told of the banishment of the Estonians (setu people) to Siberia. He laid his oak club on the ground, and wise roots sprouted forth from it. Furthermore Peko told them to build a cloister and stately churches round about. His hair was to be put on the coffin and his name was to be remembered. In that case he would take care of people even from his grave.

25. The planting of the oak: Peko planted his club so that it would become an oak tree. He foretold that when the leaves of the oak became green, there will be a war, in which brother would fight brother. But then his name was to be mentioned and he would come and put an end to it.

After planting the oak Peko wondered which bird would come first in spring to sing in the top of it. First came a lark, then a cuckoo and other birds still who give joy to Peko all day long.

Peko hoped that the oak growing from his club could live as long as the world.
26. **Peko’s death**: Peko hoped that those who step on his place would be great lords and traders. Peko lay down and three angels came to him and put him the shirt and the socks. Even Jesus cried and he said that the moment soon came when he could no longer live on earth, when he will be nailed to the cross. Peko furthermore asked the angels to put his hair on the log and the white face to the beam so that it would be seen by the lords, priests and real setu people.

The Peko died blessedly. Jesus’s farm hands locked the grave with a golden lock and silver keys. Jesus had written on the lock that the door should be closed forever and that on that place a church should be built. The setu people come to the grave for six sides.

27. **The building of the cloister**: The cloister of Petser was built and a golden dome was placed on it. Peko’s coffin was taken to the middle of the church. The smiths placed Peko’s rib, which they had forged, beside the church as he had wished. All that Peko had said was fulfilled.

**EPILOGUE**

28. **Peko’s foretelling come true**: During the harvest the singer baked such bread as her parents had made, and she went to the cloister of Petser on our Lady’s Day. She gave loaves to the poor, gave one to the Holy Mary on a glass plate and placed one on Peko’s coffin.

29. **Jesus heals the sick man**: The singer describes briefly the healing of the sick.

30. **Jesus teaches the plowman**: Jesus went past a plowman. His horse stopped and the plow hit a stone. Jesus explained that this happened
because the man was plowing a field that was not his own. The plowman resolved not to do it again and desired to give up his greediness.

31. **The death of Jesus**: The singer described how bad men summoned Jesus to the court. Jesus, for his part, invited his disciples to eat together. The disciple who wanted to sell Jesus is blacker that the others. Soon a lord came who sold Jesus for silver coins, and he got an armful of silver. But it was of no use to him because he himself lost his life. The people delivered Jesus into the hands of the soldiers, and they whipped Jesus and crucified him.

32. **The last war**: The singer confirms that all Peko's word and foretelling were right. There was a war, as Peko had foretold when planting the oak. Then many a young wife was left to cry for her husband, many a child after his father. Each mother taught her children that the rich live, but her orphans had to stay with the orphans.

33. **Peace feeds the common people**: Jesus sighs: If tall Peko were alive, he would have scattered the fighting troops. Now the troops are all so strong that even Jesus cannot defeat them.

   Jesus tells them to be reconciled, and peace came. The priests and the monks were pleased when the cloister, with its golden dome and the church with it cross, were saved. Also Peko's oak club had grown and got a hundred branches, its roots reached to the garden of the cloister. Everybody was pleased, as God had put an end to the war, and everybody prayed that he would save them from war. Men were pleased because they had to be soldiers only for a short time. In the old time it took a long time. When a son came home from war, he didn’t know his own father, and the father did not know him anymore.
34. **To Siberia**: Then came the times about which Peko had said that they would have to leave the braked bread in the oven, so fast would they have to leave. A lot of people came crying halfway back home. They had left the fields to be ploughed by the village, but they couldn’t take them back anymore, such were the contracts that were made.

Before their departure they had to call together the kinsmen. They started before dawn. They went singing through backwoods. There had never been such jangle of singing and crying in the woods. At the meeting place everybody was crying.

One got to the carriage crawling, the other clattering. The trip took so long that the breadcrusts got hot and mouldy, and the sugar melted. Many died in the train, many had sorrow in their hearts. Nobody could be buried, only taken away from the train.

At the destination no man had time to sleep at night, no woman time to rest at daytime. Then funds were given to improve the homes and raise the cattle. Those who were quick to collect stones and cut stumps, made a house in the spruce forest, but the spruce didn’t fall down bowing. Long floaters were masters and made a house with six windows. Somebody returned from there, somebody stayed crying smoothly under the sky. Peko’s story was as right as the morning dawn.

35. **Bygone life**: In the old times there was a lot of trouble. There were no trouble. There were no trains and steamboilers, but there were hard country people. In the old times there was chaff bread, hand ground by millstones. But though their arms took all this trouble, the women were joking, the flaxen-haired were singers.
36. **The orphan**: The strange mother woke the orphan Luko before dawn, but left her own daughter sleeping. The orphan went to the house where the flour was milled. When grinding she sang the song of the orphan. The orphan had a clear voice that attracted many suitors. She sang that surely each mother thanks her own daughter. The orphan was not even given enough time to dress. However she had a beautiful voice and she looked nice. The suitors preferred the orphan. The rich girl came second and she complained to her mother. This did not pleased the mother.

As soon as the suitor saw that Luko was home, they came to the house. Her stepfather would have consented, but her mother kept her will and sent the suitors away.

On Sunday the orphan cried on her mother’s grave, and the in their graves awoke and said that nobody cried as beautifully as this maid.

The maid asked the moon to keep her from crying by taking her up into the air. The moon heard the request and invited the maid high up in the sky. And when it is nice weather and the moon is shining, the orphan Luko will be singing from there and making half the world beautiful.

37. **How they lived in the old times**: When grain was threshed and crop was taken from the threshing barn the boys had three branched forks. The crop was put on earthen floor. In the old times there were chimneyless huts. The floor was made of clay. Shingles were burnt.

38. **Jesus escapes**: In the old times when Jesus walked on earth, evil men walked behind and Jesus escaped far away. The alder did not take him under its green branch. Jesus said: Though the wind is not blowing hard, let other trees rest, but let the branches of the alder all tremble and the
branches of the aspen all whir. But the birch and the pine took care of him all night, and the evil men went away. In the morning Jesus said: Let there be sap from the birch, bath whisks from its branches, pitch from the pine.

Next evening the juniper gave shelter and Jesus said: Let it berries become malted juniper barley. To the spruce he said: Let the spruce be a Christmas tree and let be used its branches when somebody dies.

Then Jesus went to the river and asked a horse to take him across. The horse answered that he did not had time to take him, because he would soon be taken to plough. Jesus got hurt and said to the horse that it would have to remain the plougher of the earth and have to work from morning to night.

Jesus left distressed and the cattle summoned him, also the sheep. Jesus was pleased. He wished the cows tasty milk and the sheep to give good wool and cloths.

Then the ox asked Jesus to get on its shoulders and took him across the river. The evil men chasing Jesus were left on the other and nobody took them across the river. Jesus said to the ox that it would be fed on good hay so that its neck would become even stronger and that its meat would be food for the towns as long as the world would exist.

39. **Jesus orders the fasts**: Jesus wrote on the bark(maple, ash) when fast should be kept, for how long time and what should be eaten.

40. **Jesus and Mary help fishermen**: Jesus and Holy Mary went to see some fishermen. The fishermen then got a lot of fish and noticed that the God had helped them, and they were grateful.
Even a poor man had a lot of fish to sell. He became rich. Even her daughter could now forget what it was to be poor, but she must not forget Jesus and his good deed, as there were just as many fish in many villages.

The closing words of the singer. The singer said that she would have sung about Peko ever before, if she had lived near Petser, near the cloister. If she could sing in the town of heaven, she would chant there like flowers.

This is admitted by the singer without knowing or seeing, because no one ever came to earth from heaven. Black earth and red sand don't allow chanting. She allows this song to be sung from town to town for the lords to hear. Let her name, Anne (Anne Vabarna) to mention then.

All these songs, known by Anne, are brought from Tonja.