



This documentary takes you to the remote highlands of West-Papua (Irian Jaya), Indonesia. Here, occasionally stone figurines are found in the ground. The origin of these stone figures (shaped as men or animal) is mysterious. The Me Papuans who live here never carved stone figures. They even never made or presently make wooden figurines.

The Me people consider the stone figures as magical. In some cases, the figures were entrusted to missionaries. Anthropologist De Vries found out about the existence of the figures through one of these missionaries. She was caught by their mysterious origin and became interested in the stories of the people who found these stone figures. She travelled through Papua to investigate the background of these discoveries and the meaning of the figures to the Me-people.

In this moving film report, the viewer travels together with her to one of the most stunning regions of Papua and its colourful inhabitants. De Vries manages to get the confidence of the villagers. PAIKEDA tells you why Me are scared by the stone figures, and how the power of PAIKEDA protects them. Opinions of scientists vary about the origin of the figures, but nobody, interviewed by de Vries, doubts their magical power.

Duration: 55 minutes; Original languages: English, Dutch, Indonesian and Me-Papuan; Subtitling and Voice Over in English; Director and research: Ineke de Vries; Camera: Wyger Wentholt, Wendy van Wilgenburg; Editing: Wendy van Wilgenburg; Music: mouth harp by L. Tegeke, songs by Paniai men, recorded (1958) by Fons van Nunen ofm; Translation in English (via Dutch): Frank Heuge, Melanie Brown; Production: ©2002-ApaMana foundation, Amsterdam NL.

The film is available on VHS-tape for € 29 or on VCD for € 24 (for individuals) and € 110 (for institutions). For more information and to order, contact apamana@planet.nl