

He Korowai Tukutuku Reo – Cracking the language code.



Karakia Tauparapara

Te Aupouri, Ngāpuhi nui tonu

I tukuna maioha mai tētehi ō āku akonga tuahine ko tēnei taonga whakahirahira. Ko Robyn Kāmira. He wahine toa nō Te Tokerau ō Ngāpuhi nui tonu ki Te Aupouri.

He mea maitai kē atu a ia ko tāna te muru taonga mai i te whare pupuri taonga ki Tamaki. Ka urua, ka kitea, ka rapua, ka mutu! Ki ētehi he nanawe ara rā, te mano tini ō te ara tāne e tau atu ki mua i tana aroaro, kōhetehete ai, taupatipati ai. Ka kore.

Koia nei tana manaakitanga mai ki au te waimarie atu, ki ngā tāngata hoki e hiahiatia ake ana i runga noa atu i te tika, te pono, te mātauranga.

He karakia tēnei i tukuna mai i te pukapuka a Tākou. Ko te pukapuka tēnei, te tuawhitu, 124 te whārangi. (Te Tuhituhi roa a Kāmira 1902- 1952-3)

He karakia, tauparapara i whakarērea iho ai e te waka ō Kupe mai i Hawaiki, te whitinga mai ki te whenua nei ō Aotearoa ake.

Ko te karakia tēnei i te haerenga tuatahi mai a Kupe.

This rare karakia was gifted to me by one of my students. She is definitely a warrior woman from the North, Ngāpuhi and Te Aupouri.

She literally walked into the Auckland Museum and reclaimed all of the remaining works of her tupuna, Tākou. Some Māori disagree with her actions, particularly her male kith and kin who continuously attempt to access her treasure trove, but fail.

This karakia, tauparapara can be sourced from the book of Tākou. It can be found at page 124 of the seventh volume. (Kāmira Manuscripts 1902-5 ki te tau 1952-3)

This ritual chant is said to have been one used during the first journey of Kupe from Hawaiki to Aotearoa New Zealand

Papa te whatitiri	Thunder rolls
Rapa te ūira	Lightning strikes
Kapakapa tū ana te rangi	Heavens rent asunder
E iri iho nei	Celestial glory
Nukuhia a Nuku	Nature's
Nukuhia a Rangi	Elemental splendor
Kia wātea mai ā Taihōrō – nuku – rangi	Unfettered betwixt earth and sky
Kia tirohīa atu te ūrū o Tangaroa	Observe that brackish increase of Tangaroa

E tū mai nei hikihiki Rangi	Extoling the heavens
Ki te Tauihu rape nūi o Tāne	Unto the ornate citadel of Tāne
I tūtakina ai, te pō uriuri	He who traversed an eternity of darkness
Te pō tangotango	Bleak epochs of intense pathos
Te kāpiti rangi	Conduit eons
Ko Tāne i wāhia- mai ai tapu - wae	Of Tane's sacred pilgrimage
Tihei Mauri ora!	To life!

This karakia tauparapara is all about leadership, courage, faith, fortitude, legacy and self – belief. The iconic Kupe, navigator, adventurer, visionary, eco-scientist, husband, father, kinsman and patriarch.

An explosive scenario of chaos presents a clash of elements between the heavens and earth, demanding total attention of all the senses. Culminating as a cataclysmic leap of faith into the unknown, forging far, far beyond waterway of facile imagination. Only the best of the best has any hope of delivering redemption. The path to eternity rests in league with the intrepid traveller, whose seeker's soul invests all that he was, is or ever will be in the self- belief that the future of all he knows and loves, rests solely on his shoulders.

His vessel Ngā Toki Matawhaorua offers the dichotomy and duality of fates, life, death, light, dark, male, female, fire, water, earth, sea, safety, adventure, old, new. The old life is gone. The new life is perilous, yet wonderous. The fates of his kith and kin, who themselves are kāhui āriki, chosen for their own bloodlines of nobility rest with every decision, every action. They are the currency and legacy in waiting, whose future ultimately turns on the performance of one eponymous ancestor, a champion without peer.

The tauparapara then calls on these same qualities through the annals of time. Demanding a return to glory for all that we were, are and can be as a people and as men and women. This then is our legacy, one of chiefs, striving, breaching new horizons, casting off the insidious comfort of past success to be adorned with the splintered garment of untested trials.

Life is vitality, an eternal journey from darkness to light, that never- ending quest into the world of light and enlightenment, where we walk surreptitiously in the footsteps of our predecessors, indeed, let there be life, Tihei mauri ora!