

Haka – Aoraki Matatū

Kaitito / Composers – Kā Pari Kārakara 2008

Whakamārama / Explanation

E rua kā tino whāika o te haka nei. Tuatahi, ko te whakapakari i a Kāi Tahu i tō rātou Kāi Tahu, ā, kia ākina te haka rakatahi kia patua tō rātou whakamā, kia mate. Ko te whāika tuarua he whakamārama ki kā iwi o Te Ika a Māui i kā āhuatanga o Kāi Tahu, ā, he whakatonu anō hoki o roto, kia kauraka e pōhēhē e kore kā taumahataka kua tau mai ki ruka i a Kāi Tahu e tau anō hoki ki ruka i a rātou. Ka mutu, he whakatonu ki te huka e wawe ana ki te whakato, ki te whakahawea i a Kāi Tahu mō tō mātou reo, mo tō mātou āhua, aha atu rānei, aha atu rānei. E kore te huare e hoki ki te waha, nā reira mēnā he whakaiti te mahi – puritia ki te waha, ā, mau noa atu ki reira!

There are two main objectives of this haka. Firstly, there is the aim of strengthening Kāi Tahu in their identity and cultural self esteem, whilst also urging the youth to expell all sense of shame and embarrassment about their iwi. The second objective is to explain to the tribes of the North Island the historical experiences and circumstances Kāi Tahu has been through, and with that also a caution – lest they be mistaken that the pressures experienced by us will never befall them. Furthermore, it is also a warning to those quick to tease and belittle Kāi Tahu for our language and appearances or whatever else might be the topic of the day. The spittle never returns to the mouth – what is said cannot be retracted, so if the intent is to belittle – best hold it in the mouth, and keep it there!

Ka tikaka whakamahi mō te waiata nei / Notes on appropriate usage of this waiata

AORAKI MATATŪ

He aha kāi muri i te awe kāpara

Ko ahau, ko Kāi Tahu!
Titi ā-kai, titi ā-manawa
Pōi mai koe ki aku awa
Hi ai i taku ika a Kahue
E heia nei te kākī ōu, o te tini

Heke ana i ahau tō ware

ki taku pōhā kai
Tupakaruatia te kiri o aku tipuna
E Pūnui-o-Toka
Titi ai te manawa
Pēnei i tōku e titi tonu nei

Hēoi anō tātou Kāi Tahu e,

koi wareware rā
kā taero o Tū te Koropaka
Te nihomakā hika ana tokomaha,
toa ana a tokoitī,
Kā tonu ana taku ahi e

Te tai tuarua

He para whenua mea
Takata pōra tahae whenua
Mūrere, he whakamōkeke
Mana kore ana te kupu

Toko mai ko te aha?

Ko Te Kerēme, ko Te Kerēme
mana whenua, mana takata
mahi kai hoaka
mahi kai takata

Kāi Tahu e

Kia tama tāne te tū
Kia rite ki te tipuna
Te tihi o te motu
E titi nei ki te raki

Koi pōhēhē koutou e te motu

He tai rere noa
Ekari mō tēnā!
E pari mai anō
I kā pari o te rua
Ka mate, ka mate,
Korekore rawa!
Anea kau ana te reo
Tūteia te kāika manomano e

Titaia ana au ki ō kupu tāwai

He kore tikaka
He utu pārara
He utu pihikete
He karu ōpure
He tea te kiri
He warea ki te tāra
Ko tāku atu ki a koe
Ae mai, ae mai
ki te whae o nono, ki te whae o kaheto e
Aoraki matatū hei!

AORAKI MATATŪ

Who is behind this pale face

Tis I, Kāi Tahu

Where titi abounds, the people unyielding

plundering my rivers

thieving my precious resource

to adorn your neck, and those of the multitudes

I make you drool

for want of my greatest delicacies

Obtained at great cost, our ancestors skin weathered

by the icy chill of the southern winds

Tenacious in their endeavors

as am I

A word of caution Kāi Tahu,

Lest they be forgotten

Those obstacles that challenge our existence

The Nihomakā where so many fell

yet the few prevailed

as do my proprietary rights

The second wave

Like a great tide

Came the ship people, land filchers

Devious and underhanded

Their words meant nothing

And what transpired?

'Twas the Claim, 'twas The Claim

Asserting our rights

The grinding battle

That consumed the generations

People of Kāi Tahu

Be fearless in your stance

Just like our ancestor

The highest peak in the land

Piercing the heavens

People of the land, be deluded no longer

That this tide is spent

On the contrary!

it flows more strongly

From the brink of ignominy

Are we doomed

Never, never!

Our language ravaged

But a thousand homes have rallied

I disregard your taunts

We of no customs

Bought with a bottle of rum

and cabin bread

of light coloured eyes

Of pale skin

Obsessed with the dollar

But here is my retort

I welcome your challenge

The victory will be mine

Aoraki be ever proud!

Additional Language Notes

Pōi – Whakakaokao (swarm) / in droves
Tupakarua / tupangarua – rough of skin
Mūrere = cunning
Whakamōkeke = stealthy
Anea = devastated / swept by war
Tūteia = watch / spy / sentry
Tītaia = Whiua
Ōpure = pied / pasty of colour
Warea = overcome
Kaheto = anus