

Mihi

Tēnei au te tū nei i te tihi o te Atua o Mahuru i Ruahine

Here I stand at the peak, Te Atua Mahuru, in the Ruahine ranges

ka titiro whakararo ki ngā waiora o Tukituki,

looking down at the life-giving waters of Tukituki,

e koropiko ana, e haehae ana i te mānia Ruataniwha, e horo rā.

twisting, turning, cutting across the Ruataniwha plains spread out before me.

Ka haere taku tiro ki ngā whare pā o Tamatea,

My focus moves to the settlements of Tamatea,

Tamatea Ariki nui, Tamatea Pōkaiwhenua, Pōkaimoana,

Tamatea the supreme chief, Tamatea who traversed the lands and the oceans,

Ko Pukehou, ko Whatuiapiti, ko Tapairu ko Mataweka ki te raki.

Pukehou, Whatuiapiti, Tapairu and Mataweka are the marae to the North.

Ka titiro atū ke te takutaimoana, mai Kairakau, ki Whangaehu,

I look along the coastline from Kairakau ki Whangaehu,

ko Hikatoa, ko Kere, Ko Manuhiri, ko Pihere e noho tonu ra.

where Ngāti Hikatoa, Kere, Manuhiri and Pihere (hapū of the coastal areas) still reside.

Ka hoki taku tiro ki Waipukurau a Ruakuha,

I look back towards Waipukurau,

ki ngā pā tūwatawata, ki Pukekaihau, ki Kaimananawa, e tū mokemoke ai.

to the fighting pa, Pukekaihau and Kaimanawa, standing solitary and without people.

Ka whakatitonga taku tiro ki Rakautātahi,

My gaze turns south to Rakautātahi,

kei reira Te Poho o Whatuiapiti e tū whakahīhi mai.

where Te Poho o Whatuiapiti (the marae) stands proudly.

A, ka tae ki te Takapau, ki te Rangitapu-a-Whata,

Finally, I arrive at Takapau to te Rangitapu-a-Whata,

(The hill overlooking Takapau on which the pā Horehore stood),

Ko Puera kei runga, ko Whatumā kai raro.

Puera stands above and Whatumā lies below.

(Lake Hatuma and Puera [the hill to the south of te Rangitapu-a-Whata],

are both important mahinga kai, food gathering sites)

Tihei Tamatea!

Written by Dr Roger Maaka