

Ka patu karere a Te Whati ki tōna uri o Tipi kia haere tahi rāua ki te patu mātaimai. ‘Me tae mai i te atapō tonu hei te 5 o ngā hāora, timu ana te hei te 6, kei te pai tēnā, e kare?’ Me te tūrehu karu nei te roa kua whakahoki karere atu a Tipi ki tōna uri tuakana, he roa nōna e hiahia akoako ana ki te rukuruku.

E kai pāreti tonu ana a Te Whati ki te paparahua ka hou mai ai a Tipi ki roto me tōna wairua hīkaka e rangona ana e Te Whati. ‘Ka pai, e kare, utaina atu ō mea ki o muri o te motopaika whā wīra, mutu ana kua haere tāua, nē.’ Te kōrero a Whati. Whakahoki tika atu a Tipi. ‘Kua mahi kē atu ahau.’ ‘Tō pai hoki!’ Tā Te Whati.

He whiunga toka noa te matara o tātahi i te kāinga o Te Whati, mea ake kei te oneone rāua e whakariterite ana i a rāua anō. Waha atu ana a Tipi ki a Te Whati – ‘kia mīia rānō e tāua ki runga ake i ngā taputapu ruku katoa, nē?’ ‘Hai aha hoki tērā tikanga tā Te Whati whakahoki ki tōna uri. ‘Engari, tā koro Kahu whakahau mai me pēnā rawa e tāua i ngā wā katoa hei whakanoa, ka mutu, me karakia.’ ‘Hai aha tā koro Kahu whakahau, hoake tāua!’ Ahakoa, mōhio pai ana a Tipi ka takariri mai a koro Kahu ina whai mōhioanga a ia engari, te mea ai he tuakana a Te Whati ki a ia ka whai noa a Tipi i tāna i kī ai.

Tirikohu atu ana rāua ki te moana ka rongu tonu atu i te wai mātao engari nā te hīkaka o Tipi tē aro i a ia. Nāwai, nāwai, ā, ka kōrengarenga pai nei te kete a Tipi ki ngā tū mātaimai noa atu. Ka tohu atu a ia ki a Te Whati e ruku tonu nei ka hoki a ia ki te oneone, whakaine ai, kautehia ai āna i patu ai. Whakamīharo mai ana a Te Whati kua whakakī poha kē te kete a Tipi i mua i a ia, me te aha, ka paku hae mai a Te Whati.

E noho ana a Tipi me tōna kotahi ki te oneone ka puta mai a Te Whati me tāna kete e hawhe kī ana. ‘E kare, kei te toro mai ngā karawa hei te mutunga wiki, me nui atu anō ā tātau kai.’ Tā Tipi. ‘E kare, kāore koe i kite i te mako e kau ana i waho rā!’ ‘Karekau hoki!’ Te whakahoki a Tipi. ‘Heoi anō, me hoki tāua ki te kāinga.’ Te kōrero a Te Whati.

Ka whakarau atu ngā mātaimai ki te pouaka mātao i roto i te whare engari nā te nui ka kore i whai wāhi atu ngā mātaimai a Tipi ka haria atu ki te pouaka mātao kei roto i te wharau. Ka mea atu a Te Whati, ‘Hoki mai koe āpōpō ka whakatikatika tahi tāua i ngā pāua me ngā kina, nē.’ ‘Ka pai.’ Te kōrero whakahoki a Tipi.

Te aonga o te rā kei te whatitoka i te whare o Te Whati a koro Kahu ka kuhu ai ki roto. Tika atu te kōrero a koro Kahu. ‘Kei hea rā o mātaimai o nanahi rā?’ ‘Kei te pouaka mātao, ā, ko ngā mea nā Tipi i patu kei waho rā.’ Tā Te Whati whakahoki. ‘Kua tīkina kē mai ērā, kei waho tō uri e mahi kai ana, hoake tāua.’ Tā koro Kahu.

Te huakitanga mai o te tatao o te pouaka mātao, ha, kua kore, kua whakanumi atu ngā mātaimai katoa. ‘E koro, kua kore, kua hou mai anō tētahi, murei mai ai.’ ‘E tama e, hoki atu ki te moana ka ruku mai anō otiia, koi hoki kirihanga mai ki te kāinga!’ Te whakahau a koro Kahu. E tau ana te ngutu o raro o Te Whati ki te papa ka haere atu a ia me tōna kotahi ki te moana. Ka whai huna atu a koro Kahu i a ia kia mātakitakina āna mahi.

Tae atu ana a Te Whati ki tātahi ka kuhu poka noatia e ia i tōna hūtu ruku, ka tirikohu tonu atu ai ki te rukuruku. Ka hoki a koro Kahu ki te whare. Ka noho, ka noho, ka tae anō a Te Whati ki te kāinga me tāna kete e kī hawhe kau ana ki te mātaimai. Waiho iho a koro i tāna karere tuhituhi ki te pae e mea ana – ‘E moko, kia whāia ngā tikanga rukuruku, ki te kore, he

utu pea te otinga.’ Pānui whakahīhī mai a Te Whati i tāna kōrero ka whakarau atu anō ai ngā mātaimai ki te pouaka mātao.

Te aonga ake o te rā kua hoki mai anō a koro Kahu. ‘Matika mai, e Whati, tīkina mai ngā mātaimai ka whakarite tahi ai tāua!’ Te whakahau a koro Kahu. Te huakitanga mai o te tatau ko taua āhua anō rā, kua kore, kua whakanumi atu anō ai ngā mātaimai. ‘I mua i te putanga reo mai o Te Whati ka mea ake te koroua. ‘Kāti, e hoki ki te moana, kia tika ai ngā mahi!’ Te whakahau a koro Kahu.

Hoki tangi mumu atu a Te Whati ki te moana, ā, whai huna ana a te koroua kia kitea tāna mahi. Nō Te Whati e haere ana ka toka ake te whakaaro. *‘Ēkene pea, me tika tāku whai i ngā tikanga, kia kore e rite te whakahau mai ōku a te koroua!’*

Tae atu ana ia ki tātahi ka mīia e ia ki āna taputapu ruku katoa, ka tū atu ki te taha moana ka whakahua ake i tāna karakia ka kuhu ai ki te mārā a Tangaroa. Te kuhutanga atu ki roto i te waitai ka kitea tonu atu te mahi a te ranga ika e kau ana, te mahi a te pāua me te kina e piri ana ki ngā toka. Ka *rākaunui ngā kamo*¹ o Te Whati kāre e roa mai e kōrengarenga ana tāna kete i ngā tū tamariki a Tangaroa. Ka puta atu a ia i te moana ka kitea e ia i te kōhamo o koro Kahu nōna e hoki ana ki te kāinga.

¹ kua taka te kapa/kua kite i te māramatanga.

