

# Te Arotake Oranga

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“E koro? Ko koe tēnā? Kua mate ahau, kua ora anō rānei koe?”

“E Moko, e taku whakawhiti o te rā, kua mate koe. Kua haere mai koe ki te arawhiti ki te pō, kei konei ahau ki te ārahi i a koe ki te pō roa. Mā te arawhiti ka haere tāua ki Rarohenga. Kei korā ōu tīpuna katoa e tatari ana ki a koe. I mua i tō tāua wehenga, ko te arotake oranga te mahi. Haere mai noho ai.”

I te wā o te matenga o Koro, he māuiui tōna āhua, he ngenge ōna karu, he kōmā tōna kiri nā te manauhea. Engari, ināianei... anana! He waiora tōna kiri, he pakari ake tōna tinana, he pūrotu ia. Kei a ia tōna tokotoko me tōna tino pōtae kiwikiwi.

Ko te āiotanga te wairua o te arawhiti nei. He wāhi haumaruru tēnei arawhiti, he wāhi aroha hoki. Kāore he raru, kāore he whakaaro, kāore he aha i konei hāunga i te āiotanga. Kua whakakotahitia ngā mea katoa ki te aroha. Ka noho a Moko i tētahi tūru i mua i tētahi papa whakaata nui rawa atu, ka noho a Koro i tētahi atu tūru ki tōna taha.

“E Moko, koinei tō arotakenga oranga. Anei te roumamao ki te papa whakaata nui. Ākuanei, ka mātakitaki tāua i ō mahara o mua ki te kite i ngā akoranga i roto. Kei runga i te roumamao ngā pātene e toru. Ko te pātene whero, te wā o tō matenga. Ko te pātene kōwhai, te pātene mō tō tamarikitanga. Ko te pātene kikorangi, te pātene mō tō taiohitanga. Nā reira, whakakāngia te pātene whero.”

Kei runga i te papa whakaata nui a Moko i roto i tōna rūma moe. He tino pōuri te āhua o te rūma, tangi ana a Moko i te mamae o te mokemoketanga. Ka haurangi haere a Moko, ka kai pire ia, ka mate ia.

“E Moko, e taku kuru pounamu, he aha koe i mate whakamomori ai?”

“E koro, i kaha pōuri ahau. I hiahia ahau ki te patu i te mamae me te mokemoke. Tē taea e au te whai harikoa. Ko au te pōuri, ko te pōuri ko au. I kinikinitia ahau e te taniwha o te mate pāpouri ao noa, pō noa, pō noa, ao noa, ā, tē taea te kaupare atu.

“E Moko, kia ruku tāua i roto i tō pōuri.”

I haere te tokorua nei ki roto i te manawa o Moko, ki roto i te mamae. Ka noho rumaki rāua i te pōuri, ka rongorua i te taumaha o te mamae, ā, i whakaroau rāua i te puku o te pōuri. Ka mimiti te pōuri, ko te āiotanga te mea mōmōhanga. Ka noho tonu te tokorua nei i roto i te pito o te āiotanga, ka tiputipu haere te āio. Ka puea te aroha i te āiotanga, ka tiputipu haere te aroha. Ka whakakotahitia ngā mea katoa ki te aroha.

“E koro, i pōhēhē ahau. Ko au te aroha, ko te aroha ko au. He ōrite ngā kare-ā-roto ki te huarere, engari, pēra tōku wairua i te rangi, he whakahara. Ka tīni ōku kare-ā-roto, engari, ka noho pūmau tōku wairua. Pēra tōku wairua i te moana rētō.”

“Āe Moko, he tika tāu. Ināianei, ka mātakitakitia tētahi maumaharatanga i runga i te papa whakaata. Whakakāngia te pātene kōwhai.”

Kei runga i te papa whakaata te maumaharatanga o tō Moko tamarikitanga. I noho a Moko ki te whare o ōna kaumātua ki Whangārei. I hūnuku atu tōna māmā ki Kaitāia, ki te taha o tōna hoa tāne hōu, ā, i whakawhānau mai tōna māmā i tētahi pēpi hōu. I mokemoke a Moko ki tōna māmā. I tangi a Moko ki tōna māmā. He nui tō Moko aroha ki a Nanny rāua ko Koro, engari, mokemoke tonu ia ki tōna māmā. Tērā pea, ko tā Moko, he pai ake te pēpi hōu i a Moko, ā, tērā pea he nui ake te aroha o tōna māmā ki tāna pēpi hōu.

“E Moko, he nui te mamae, he nui hoki te mokemoke, nē? Whakakāngia te pātene parauri, ka titiro atu tāua ki te tirohanga o tō māmā.”

Kei runga i te papa whakaata tōna māmā e whāngai wai ū ana ki a Moko, he taiohi a Māmā. E waiata ana a Māmā ki a Moko. Ko Moko tōna ao. Ko tā māmā, nā tōna taiohitanga, me noho a Moko ki te taha o ōna mātua. I te hūnukutanga atu o Māmā, i mokemoke pai ia ki a Moko. He nui tōna pōuri, engari ko tāna, he pai ake te tipuranga i raro i ngā parirau o ōna mātua. Ia rā, ia rā, whakaaro ai a māmā ki a Moko. Ia pō, ia pō, karakia ai a māmā ki a Moko.

Ka haere a Moko rāua ko koro ki roto i te manawa o māmā, ngāekieki ana i te aroha rā. Kua kī te manawa i te aroha. Ka noho tonu te tokorua i roto i te aroha hōhonu. Ka whakakotahitia ngā mea katoa ki te aroha.

“E koro, kua hinātore! I pōhēhē au kāore a māmā e aroha mai ana, engari, nā tōna aroha nui, i noho ahau ki tō kōrua ko Nanny taha. Pērā te aroha o Māmā i te rangi, he whakahara. He aroha pūmau tōna aroha mōku.”

“E Moko, he tika tāu. Ināianei, ka mātakitakitia tētahi atu maumaharatanga. Whakakāngia te pātene kikorangi.”

Kei runga i te papa whakaata te maumaharatanga o te tangihanga o Koro, he taiohi a Moko. I noho a Moko ki te taha o te tūpāpaku. Kāore a Moko i mōhio ko wai tōna pāpā tūturu, ko koro tonu tōna pāpā ki a ia. Ka hoki a Nanny rāua ko Moko ki tō rāua kāinga. I te tangi tonu a Nanny, anō nei he toroa e kē ana i te waru. Kua ngaro te tau o tana ate ki te pō. Moe hurihuri, moe pēpeke, kāore e taea e ia te moe i ngā pō roa tonu i te korenga ōna ki tōna taha.

Pūkatokato ana a roto i te matenga o tana ipo. Ka āwangawanga a Moko ki a nanny e pōuri ana. Ka pāpōuri hoki a Moko i te matenga o koro. Ka mokemoke a Moko ki tōna koro.

“E Moko, he nui te pōuri mōku, he nui hoki te mokemoke. Ka haere tāua ki roto i tōku manawa.”

I haere rāua ki roto i te manawa o koro. Ka noho rumaki te tokorua nei ki roto i te aroha. E kore tōna aroha e mutu noa. Kei te pito o tōna aroha a Nanny rāua ko Māmā e tangi ana ki te

taha o te moenga hohipera o Moko. Ahakoa kāore rātou i tino mōhio, ka karapotia rātou ki te murimuri aroha o Koro.

“E koro, kua taka te kapa. Ahakoa pāmamao, kei konei tonu koe.”

“E Moko, he aroha mutunga kore mōu. Kei tō taha ahau i ngā wā katoa, tirohia ngā kokonga o tō ngākau, ka tautoko ahau i a koe mō ake tonu atu.”

Ka tūwhera te poho o Moko, ka maringi te aroha o Koro ki roto i te manawa o Moko. Ka whiwhi a Moko i te aroha, ka kikī te manawa i tō Koro aroha.

“E koro, he aituā tēnei, ehara tēnei i te wā ki te haere ki Rarohenga. Me hoki atu ahau ki a rāua ki te ao mārama.”

“E Moko, āe, he tika tāu. Kaua e wareware, ahakoa pāmamao, kei konei ahau i ngā wā katoa.

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Ka huaki a Moko i ōna karu, ka kitea a Māmā rāua ko Nanny i te taha o tōna moenga hōhipera. Ka tangi te tokotoru nei. Kei te taha o te moenga te tokotoko me te pōtae kiwikiwi o Koro. I mate a Moko me ōna whakaaro pōuri, i ora mai ia me tōna mōhio. Ko ia te aroha, ko te aroha ko ia.