

Kia mōhio mai kei roto i tēnei kōrero ngā kōrero mataaho mō te ai.

Whakaipoipo

by Zeb Tamihana Nicklin

‘Pakipaki mai ki te tokorua!’ (He kōrero pono)

‘... taua āhua anō rā, e kare, kei te hoki kirihaunga atu tāua ki te kāinga!’ Tā Mike ki a Tamihana. ‘E kare, kōrero koe mōu ake, he angitūtanga tonu kei te wharekai kebab.’ Tā Tamihana whakahoki i a rāua e anga atu ana ki te wharekai kebab i te katinga o ngā karapu.

Pēnei tonu a Tamihana he tangata māia ia otiia, nō te kuhutanga atu o tētahi wahine ki te wharekai kua kore anō a Tamihana i kite i tēnei taumata pai rirerire nei te momo, mū katoa ana te noho iho, ā, kua tū katoa tōna ao hurihuri. Mea atu ai a Mike ki a Tamihana, ‘Arā, tukuna tō tautara kia hī.’

Ka roa e tipu haere ana te māia ki roto i a Tamihana ka kitea e ia tāna angitu.

‘E wā, e wā-tea ana te, te, te tērā atu kebab kei tērā atu ringa ōu, mā tētahi kē atu rānei?’ te pātai āmāimai atu a Tamihana ki te wahine ātanga rirerire nei.

‘E kī, e kī, māku tonu kē,... ko wai rā koe?’ Te pātai a te *tiare*¹ nei. ‘Ko Tamihana tōku ingoa, a koe?’ ‘I nei, pono mai? ... mōhio kē ana au ki te ingoa otiia, he tuatahitanga tēnei te pātanga mai o tō mata ki ōku kanohi... e pono ana rānei tō kōrero?’ ‘Kei te āhua o te kōhimuhimu i tae atu ai ki a koe!’ ‘Hei aha, kei te pai, ko Rāhera ahau...’ ‘Tēnā koe, e Rāhera, pēnā me koe

¹ Kupu Rarotonga mō te puitputi māori

he pānga tuatahitanga tēnei o ōku karu ki runga ki a koe, ā, hākari pai ana ōku karu, nō konei koe?’ Tā Tamihana. ‘Ehara, ehara, whānau mai ai au i konei, whakapakeke mai anō hoki.’ ‘Kā pā he tāone nui a Te Papaiōea, he aha i kore ai au i tūpono atu ki a koe...!’ tā Tamihana mahira. ‘Pātai pai otiia, kāore aku whakautu pai, heoiti kua tūtaki mai tāua ināiane!’

‘Kei tōku waka tōku hoa e whanga mai ana ki a au, me hoki.’ Tā Rāhera.

‘Kei te hautū waka koe?’ Tā Tamihana ui tūmeke atu. ‘Āe, kāore au i inuini i te pō rā, i tēnei ata rānei, he puta kau ahau ki te hoko kai e wānangananga ana, he whakamātautau tāku e tū ana ā tērā Tūrei... kei te hiahia māku koe e whakataka ki tō kāinga.’ Tā Rāhera ui. ‘E mea ana koe!’ tā Tamihana.

Kuhu rāua ki te waka ka whakatūtaki atu a Tamihana ki te hoa o Rāhera, ki a Tuiara. ‘Kei hea koe e noho ana?’ Te Rāhera pātai ki a Tamihana. ‘Kei te pito whakaterāwhiti rānō.’ Tā Tamihana.

Whakakāngia ai te waka ka haere. Āhukahuka ana a Tamihana e haere kē ana a Rāhera ki te whakataka tuatahi iho i tōna hoa, ahakoa noho tahi ana rāua. I konei whakaaro ake a Tamihana ēkene he mahi kei te haere.

‘Haere rā, kia pai te ata.’ Tā Tuiara ki a Rāhera rāua ko Tamihana. Ka whakawhiti atu a Tamihana mai i te tūru o muri ki tō mua tūru ka hautū atu ai a Rāhera.

Ka whakawetohia te waka e Rāhera ka tahuri atu a Tamihana ka kai ngutu tonu atu ai...

‘Hiahia ana koe te kuhu mai... kei waho kē tōku moemanga i te whare.’ Te tono ake a

Tamihana. ‘Hoake tāua.’ Tā Rāhera...

Mutu kau ana ngā mahi a te kiri ka whakahīkoi atu a Tamihana i a Rāhera ki tōna waka me te

takiwaiata mai anō a ngā manu tangi ata i te takiwā! Ka wharara atu a Tamihana ki te

matapihi o te waka ka hoatu ai i tōna waea pūkoro ki a Rāhera ka mea – ‘Patua mai tō nama

waea ki tāku waea pūkoro nei.’ ‘E hē, kei te pai!’ Te whakahoki a Rāhera. Tono haere tonu ai

a Tamihana mō te hemo tonu atu otiia, ā, hoki atu hoki atu taua whakahoki a Rāhera.

‘Ka pai, ēkene pea hei tōna wā, ki tōna wāhi.’ Tā Tamihana ka hoki ai ki tōna moemanga me

tōna whiore kei waenganui i ōna waewae.

Kuhu atu ana a Tamihana ki tōna moemanga ka kite tonu kua mahue iho e Rāhera i tōna

tātua me tāna raihana waka ki te papa, ka tīkina atu ka oma tonu atu ai ki waho otiia, kua kai

kē noa atu ngā wīra i te rori.

Ka pau te toru wiki ka kore tonu he whakapātanga. Kei te mātāmuri o ngā whakaaro o

Tamihana kia whakahokia ngā mea a Rāhera ki a ia nā tōna noho whakaiti nei i te korenga

manaaki mai ō Rāhera i tana tono *whai ai i te pō* e toru wiki ki muri.

Tau mai ana a Tamihana ki te kāinga i te Whare Wānanga.

‘E tama, i waea mai he wahine ki a koe, ko Rāhera tōna ingoa ka waiho mai tāna nama waea

hei whakaphoki kōrero anō māu.’ Tā te kōkā.

Waea hiamō tonu atu ana a Tamihana. 'Tēnā koe, e Rāhera, kei te pēhea rā koe?' Tā Tamihana. 'E pai ana au..., te take i hiahia kōrero au ki a koe kia kite mēnā rā i waiho atu tāku raihana me tōku tātua ki tō moemanga.' 'Āe, kei taua wāhi tonu rā nāu i mahue iho i tērā rautau rānō...' Tā Tamihana, ā, ka kore e taea e Rāhera tōna kata te kuku. 'Āe, me tiki atu e au..., kei te kāinga koe i tēnei pō?' Tā Rāhera. 'Kei te āhua o te wā, āhea koe e whakaaro nei,' tā Tamihana whakahoki. 'Hei tōna tekau karaka i te pō, pai ana?' 'Tau ana, haramai.' Tā Tamihana me te ngana hoki ki te tāwhi iho i tōna hiamō.

Uwhiuhwi pai ana a Tamihana ka horoia ngā koko katoa o te tinana, a raro, a roto, a waho, a muri ki hea kē noa atu.

Rongo ana a Tamihana i te patopatotanga i tōna kuaha ka mea. 'Huakina ana, tomo mai.' Kuhu atu ana a Rāhera ka tū ia ki te taha o te moemanga. Mea tonu atu ana a Tamihana – 'Peke mai ki te moenga!' Kāretahi he kupu mihi aha atu nei ka kai ngutu tonu atu.

Rongo ake a Tamihana i te kakara pai o te puke o Rāhera nōna ka heke whakararo kai ai i tōna teke. Ngote atu, ngote mai namumanuā te waiwai o raro, ā, tū pakari ake nei te taiaha e waipuketia ana ki te toto!

Ka roa e kai ana ka whakauru pōturihia atu e Tamihana tōna taiaha e kakapa ana mai ki te ara o te ora ka roa e mate kanehe mai ana. Mākū pai ana he maniapoto te tomo me te putanga atu. Kāre i roa ka heke mai te werawera i tō Rāhera poho i waenga i ōna maunga, ā, kua tū koi ake nei ōna kōmata e pūkana atu ana ki a Tamihana hei kai māna. Mea ake, mitimitihia tonutia nei, ngotengotehia kaha iho nei e Tamihana ka puta te reo hūrō ngata o

Rāhera ki te takiwā ‘aiiiiii, me pēnā tonu, mahia atu pērātia rawatia!’ Panapana haere a Tamihana mō te hemo tonu atu. Ka tere, ka pōturi, ka tere, ka pōturi te manawataki, kai kanoahi tahi ana ngā karu o te tokorua i roto i te ngata. Mea ake, ka nanao atu a Rāhera i ngā mātini ka whakaeke atu ia ki te kahikatea. Tiraha kau nei a Tamihana i tōna tuarā pārekareka atu ai te titiro atu ki a Rāhera e whakaekeke ana. ‘Me pēnā, me pēnā!’ Tā Tamihana.

Hāora atu, hāora ma, mea ake ka whakatū ai a Rāhera i ōna ringaringa ki te takiwā ka wharara whakatemuri ka mapu auē i te ngata. Me he wairere, tāhorō mai ai te wai aroha a raro, ā, mākūkū pai ana! I taua wā anō rā ka puta te reo ngunguru o Tamihana ka ‘auē aiiii’ atu ki te takiwā ka tangohia atu te kahikatea, wetekinahia ana mai te pōtae ka torotī te wai whakapēpē ki ngā maunga o Rāhera...!

Tiraha kau ana te tokorua i te ngata ka huri atu ai a Rāhera ki a Tamihana ka mea – ‘E hoa, kua hapū ahau!’ ...

‘Nō reira, tēnā koutou katoa i tautoko mai i te karanga i tā māua ko Rāhera pākūhā..., koia tēnei te orokohanga ahutanga mai o tā māua hono tahi, huri huri kei raro!’

Tū mai ana a Tuiara kia tuia ngā kōrero me tāna mā tōna hoa pākūhā, o Rāhera.

‘... kua rongō ake koutou i te waha tonu o te hōiho, me pēhea kē hoki, pono katoa ngā kōrero hei tā Rāhera mai ki a au nō taua wā tonu rā o te whaitanga ai i aua pō rā, ā, ko tā rāua tamaiti a *Aitutaki* te hua!’

'... kā pā i pērā *rawatia* ngā mahi i waenga i a māua otiia, ka ao hoki kua herea mārōtia ō māua aro ki a māua anō, whiti, whano, haramai te toki, haumi e, hui e, tāiki e! Tā Rāhera.