



3. HAIRINI MARAE

TE WHAKAPAUKARAKIA



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He uri a Tamahika i a Ngārarānui o Te Arawa. Ka moe ia i a Ngāriunga o Ngāti Ranginui. Tokowhā ā rāua tama, tokorua ā rāua tamāhine: ko Te Kiriwera rātou ko Rauika, ko Waunga, ko Ngārongo, ko Tāhora, ko Kahumouku. Ka heke ngā whānau Ngāi Te Ahi katoa i ēnei tūpuna.

Ka pakeke ana a Ngāriunga ka mea atu ki a Tamahika, “Heria ahau ki te kāinga, tūtaki ai i ōku iwi i Tauranga.” Ka whakaae atu a Tamahika, ka āpiti atu tokorua o āna tama mātāmua hei haumi, ka whakatika rātou ki te haere. Ka rongō te teina o Tamahika, a Korokaha mō āna whakaritenga, ka mea atu, “Haere hei kai mā Ngāi Te Rangī, kua para koe i te ara, māku e whai.”

Ka whai te tira haere i te ara hīkoi mā te kōawa o Mangorewa kia tae rā anō ki Whakapaukarakia, ki Ōropi, ka noho mō te pō. I kōnei, ka mea atu a Tāriki, taokete o Tamahika, “E Tama, e hoki ki Rotorua kei patua koe.” Ka whakahoki a Tamahika, “Kia ahatia! Tini whetū ki te rangī, ko Whakaae ki te whenua.”

Ka pōhēhē te rongō a Tākiri i taua kōrero. I mōhio a Tamahika, ki te mate atu ia, e takitini ana ngā piki tūranga i tōna iwi. Ka whakaaraa pā a Tākiri, ā ka pērā anō a Tamahika mā.

I te pakanga, i mārāma te kitea ka whakaekea te ope taua a Tamahika; ka karanga atu a Tākiri, “E Tama, tukua ngā wāhine, engari me kakari ngā tāne me ngā tama toa.” Ka mea atu a Tamahika ki a Ngāriunga ki te wehe me ngā tamariki, ka whakarite mahere rātou; ka herea ngā raho o ngā tama kia tinihanga i te hoariri. Ka tukuna rātou e Tamahika ki te taha o ngā wāhine me ō rātou tuāhine, i a te auahi e paoa ana.

I a ia e rarapa whakamuri ana, ka auē atu a Ngāriunga, “E Hī haere mai, tukua mā ngā tāne te pakanga e kōkiri.” Kāore a Tamahika i ngākaurua, ka māia kē, ka mate rangatira. Ka noho a Ngāriunga me tōna whānau ki Tauranga, ā, hei whakamaumaratanga ki te pakanga o Whakapaukarakia, ka whakaingoatia ngā uri ko Ngāi Te Ahi.

(He kōrero i kohia e Huikakahu Kawe)