



Kiaka Kāi Tahu



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Te kopa iti a Raureka

Primary Sources: Wohlers (MS-0234) 1874, White 1887: 106.

Literal interpretation: The small purse of Raureka.

Conceptual interpretations: A small but prized possession / Although it is small it carries a weight of thoughts and meaning

Whakamārama

Explanation



This is a whakataukī as it is not attributed to any particular person.

This whakataukī is drawn from the story of a Kāti Wairaki chieftainess named Raureka, who travelled across Kā Tiritiri o te Moana (Southern Alps) from Te Tai Poutini to the east coast of Te Waipounamu. She encountered people in the Arowhenua region of South Canterbury using stone adzes for their mahi.

She produced a pounamu adze from her kopa (purse) that was superior in sharpness and quality. On realising the value of this resource, the East Coast people retraced Raureka's route to Te Tai Poutini to acquire pounamu for themselves.

Hai whakaū - to consolidate

- This whakataukī can be used when handing over a koha or as an appropriate message in a card accompanying a gift. e.g. **Nā te kopa iti a Raureka** – from Raureka's small purse.

E Huatau Ako

Ideas for Learning



Hai toroka whakaaro - to extend your thinking

- There is a pass named for Raureka. Find out more on [Kā Huru Manu](#).
- What can you find out about the origins of pounamu?
- Pounamu has been significant in the trading history of Te Waipounamu. What can you find out about this historically and today?



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Ahakoā taku iti, he iti matā

Te Rākaitauheke

Primary Source: Green, Thomas Eustace (1840-1917), Papers, R.T.M. Tau, Private Collection. (trans. Tahu Potiki), 'The History of Ngāi Tahu (Ngāti Kurī clan). By Te Wanikau', MacDonald Collection, Ngāi Tahu Archives, University of Canterbury, Christchurch.

Possible interpretations:

I may be small, but I'm sharp / You might not think so, but I've got what it takes to get the job done

E Huatau Ako

Ideas for Learning



This is a whakatauākī because we know who said it.

Hai toroka whakaaro - to extend your thinking

- What other interpretations can you come up with in these contexts:
 - At a whānau gathering
 - At the playground
- What's the difference between this and 'Ahakoa he iti he pounamu'? When would you use each one?

Hai whakaū - to consolidate

- Take a photo of the youngest member of your whānau and caption it with this whakatauākī.
- Create a playdough sculpture of this whakatauākī.
- Use these words to create a skipping rhyme.
- Put this on the fridge - every time you open the fridge, you practise the whakatauākī!

Whakamārama

Explanation



Te Rākaitauheke was a master strategist and warrior chief of Kāti Kurī during the first migration southwards of what became Kāi Tahu.

This whakatauākī was his response to two chiefs of Kāti Māmoe, who, after meeting him and seeing his short stature, commented that his reputation might be undeserved.



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Ko te toa i a tini, i a mano o te takata

Tūwhakauika & Te Oreorehua

Primary Source: Green, Thomas Eustace (1840-1917), Papers, R.T.M. Tau, Private Collection. (trans. Tahu Potiki), 'The History of Ngāi Tahu (Ngāti Kurī clan). By Te Wanikau', MacDonal Collection, Ngāi Tahu Archives, University of Canterbury, Christchurch.

Translation by Tahu Pōtiki:

It is the bravery of a multitude, of thousands of people.

E Huatau Ako

Ideas for Learning



This is a whakatauākī because we know who said it.

Hai toroka whakaaro - to extend your thinking:

- If you had to “speak of your bravery” to help others find their courage, what would you say?
- Māmoe were known for using the tetewhai. What other special weapons were being used at that time?
- On a piece of graph paper, write this as a horizontal bar graph, one word per line, one letter per square. How many words of 1 letter? How many with 2? What is the average number of letters?

Hai whakaū - to consolidate:

- Create a koiri (fitness) challenge to go with chanting this whakatauākī. See who completes the challenge the fastest, or in the most entertaining way!
- Think of your favourite song and sing these words to the tune.

Whakamārama

Explanation



During the first migration, Kāti Kurī were preparing to take on Kāti Māmoe just north of present day Kaikoura. They were disturbed to hear word of the tetewhai, a special weapon wielded by Māmoe.

Rākaitauheke turned to two warriors, Tūwhakauika and Te Oreorehua, saying, ‘Rise and speak of your bravery.’ This whakatauākī was their response.



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Whakawahā te riri!

Tūteurutira

Primary Source: Green, Thomas Eustace (1840-1917), Papers, R.T.M. Tau, Private Collection. (trans. Tahu Potiki), 'The History of Ngāi Tahu (Ngāti Kurī clan). By Te Wanikau', MacDonal Collection, Ngāi Tahu Archives, University of Canterbury, Christchurch.

Possible interpretations:

Get amongst it / let's get ready to rumble / time to rock and roll / let's get this party started

E Huatau Ako

Ideas for Learning



This is a whakatauākī because we know who said it. It also makes a great kīwaha!

Hai toroka whakaaro - to extend your thinking

- 'Waha' can mean to carry. How many other words in te reo Māori can you find for 'carry', and do they all mean the same thing?
- If this whakatauākī were a dance move, which move would it be and why?
- How did Tūteurutira know it was time to attack? What was he looking for?

Hai whakaū - to consolidate

- Find an image of a sportsperson you admire going on the attack or jumping into the game, and caption it with this whakatauākī.
- Use this as a kīwaha to encourage your team the next time you're competing.

Whakamārama

Explanation



Tūteurutira or Tū Te Urutira was a chief of Ngāti Kurī. In the Wairarapa, Tū held back his forces, watching the flow of battle between Kurī and Māmoe and waiting for the right moment.

When Māmoe were pushed back for the third time, this was his command to his warriors to join the fighting.



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Ko Māui tonu atu au i a koe!

Kare Tipa

Source: personal communication, Ōtākou marae, 2016.

Translation by Kare Tipa of the English phrase:

I'm cooler than you'll ever be.

E Huatau Ako

Ideas for Learning



This is a whakatauaāki because we know who said it. It also makes a great kīwaha!

Hai toroka whakaaro - to extend your thinking

- Do you know who of your tīpuna was most like Māui? How could you find out?
- Thinking about all the different pūrākau about Māui, when do you think he might say this, and to whom?
- What would you do differently if you were Māui?

Hai whakaū - to consolidate

- Write this out twice on a piece of paper, cut out each word, mix them up, and race someone to see who can put the kīwaha back together the fastest.
- Make a video of yourself performing a real life trick shot (mahi tipua) and when you get it, look at the camera and say this.

Whakamārama

Explanation



This kīwaha was created during a Kura Reo Rakatahi at Ōtākou marae in 2016.

All the kaiako were challenged by the teenage participants to come up with ways to express their favourite sayings in te reo Māori.



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Kai raro i te tui o te kaka

Primary source: Beattie, Herries 1920 (b) 'South Island Word List', as collected from Murihiku Kāi Tahu, Te Wanaka copy.

Analysis: Pōtiki T. (n.d.). Decision paper. Unpublished decision paper, Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu.

Translation by Tahu Pōtiki: hidden under the fold of the mat.

Other interpretations could be: 'wouldn't you like to know', 'a little bird told me' or 'I won't reveal my sources'.

Whakamārama

Explanation



This is a whakataukī as it is not attributed to any particular person. It also makes a great kīwaha!

The literal meaning refers to **kaka** as a mat and **tui** as the stitches that bind the mat together. Tūī with macrons for the bird, tui without macrons for bind, lace, sew, thread, stitch.

This, therefore, adds meaning to the whakataukī as it refers to the hidden section of the mat that is not seen, but is vital to its structure.

Tahu Pōtiki writes: In the old times if a man was asked where he learned information, he would lift his mat, tap his heart and quote this proverb.

This whakataukī is good to use if someone asks where you received your information from; you can use this to articulate that you can not reveal your sources.

In the passive form **tuia**, (think stitch-**ing**) tui appears in many waiata, karakia, tauparapara and more.

E Huatau Ako

Ideas for Learning



Hai toroka whakaaro - to extend your thinking

- 'Mat' can mean both floor coverings and finely woven traditional clothing. Which do you think applies here? Why?

Hai whakaū - to consolidate

- Write a secret kōrero on a piece of masking tape and stick it inside the hem of your top. It could be this whakataukī!



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He mahi kai takata, he mahi kai hōaka

Hastings Tipa

Primary Source: New Zealand Government. (1998). Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998. New Zealand Legislation.

Literal interpretation: It is work that consumes people, as greenstone consumes sandstone.

Conceptual interpretation: A task to consume generations / anything worthwhile requires considerable effort

E Huatau Ako

Ideas for Learning



This is a whakatauākī because we know who said it.

Hai toroka whakaaro - to extend your thinking

- Hōaka or hōanga and pounamu are both types of stone. What types of stone naturally occur in your area? What were they used for traditionally? What are they used for now?
- What can you find out about other kaupapa which have taken generations to complete? Is your whānau or your kura involved in a long-term kaupapa?

Hai whakaū - to consolidate

- Make up a competitive hand game for 2 or more people to play using the words of this whakatauākī.
- Create an artwork to express this whakatauākī.
- Find a photograph of your tīpuna which would go with this whakatauākī and put them up together.

Whakamārama

Explanation



This whakatauākī was coined by **Hastings Tipa**.

This whakatauākī likens the hard work our tīpuna put into the Kāi Tahu claim to the process of shaping pounamu; it is a long process that takes a lot of work, time and sacrifice. **Good things take time** is the spirit of this whakatauākī.



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