

TE KĀUTA – HE KŌRERO PAKI

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He rite tonu tā mātou hokihoki ki te take o Pirongia maunga, ki te tutungi i te ahi kā i Pūrekireki Marae. Ia wā ka hoki mātou ki tēnei o ngā marae, ka hīkaka taku ngākau, i te mea, ko taku mahi i reira, he tiaki ahi. Ao noa, pō noa, ko au te kaiwhakatutungi i te ahi o te kāuta, kei kewa. Ko te ahi o te kāuta o Pūrekireki marae, he ahi nui, he ahi kaitā. E ono tāngata pea ka uru ki te rua o te ahi nei. Nō reira, ko taku mahi i te rā, he kohi rākau i waho, he tapahi wahie, he whakamaroke anō hoki i te wahie, inā mākū i te ua. I ngā pō, kia hoki rā anō te iwi ki te moe, ko tāku, he noho ki roto i te kāuta me te tutungi ahi, kia wera tonu ai te wai mō āpōpō. Kei pōhēhē mai, he mahi mokemoke tēnei! Ehara! Ia pō, ka noho mai aku kuia ki taku taha ki te pahupahu. He nui ngā akoranga me ngā mātauranga i tuku iho mai ki a au i roto i tērā kāuta, i te taha o tērā ahi. Me uaua ka kitea tēnei momo ahi kaitā i ngā marae i ēnei rā. Kāore e whakaaengia ana e ngā ture Pākehā ngā ahi kaitā, pēnei nei te rahi, i roto i ngā kāuta o ngā marae; *'Health and Safety Standards'* tā rātou i whakatau ai. Nō reira, i karangangia e taku pāpā tētehi hui ki te marae kia wānangahia te whakahōutanga o tō mātou kāuta. Nō taku rongotanga ake i te kaupapa o tēnei hui, ka tangi taku ngākau ki tō mātou kāuta. Nō reira, i whakarite ahau kia haere i tana taha.

Nō tō māua taenga atu ki te marae, hāngai pū taku haere ki te kāuta ki whakarite i te ahi. Ka puta ahau ki waho ki te kohikohi wahie, kātahi ka tahuna e au te ahi. Ka tae tae katoa mai ngō mātou whanaunga nō roto mai o te Rohe Pōtae o Maniapoto. I a au e tutungi ana i te ahi, ka puta mai aku kuia, a Nanny Miro, a Nanny Titi, a Nanny Huia rātou ko Nanny Mākere. Ko Nanny Mākere te pōtiki o tēnei tokowhā, 90 tau tana pakeke. He kuia hūmārie, he kuia ngākau māhaki. E kore rawa e puta mai i tana waha he kupu haku, he kupu kowhete rānei. Engari anō a Nanny Titi, 95 tau tana pakeke, ā, ko ia te kuia mō te kowhete me te whakaparahako. Heoi, hāunga tēnei momo ōna, he nui tonu tana aroha ki āna mokopuna. Nō te taitokerau a Nanny Titi, nō Ngāti Hine. I moe ia i tō mātou koroua, i a Koro Bumpy, nō reira, ahakoa tōna Ngāti Hinetanga, kua roa ia e noho ana i waenga i a Maniapoto. Ko Nanny Miro te kaumātua, 99 tau tana pakeke, ā, kei te whakatata mai tana kotahi rau tau i tēnei tau tonu. Nō reira, ko tētehi atu o ngā kaupapa o te hui, ko te whakarite mō tana hurirautau ki Pūrekireki nei. Ko Nanny Huia te karaitiana. E 93 tau tana pakeke. He nui tana whakapono ki te Atua me te Paipera Tapu. Ki te kore a Nanny Huia, kua riro katoa pea aku kuia i ngā ringa o te rēwera, nō te mea, ko ēnei kuia ōku, he kino kē mō te pātī. Kāore i tua atu i ngā kuia nei. Ko tā Nanny Miro, he inu wihiki. Inā puta pai te pātara *Johnny Walker Black Label*, kua riro a Nanny Miro, ā, kāore i kitea mō te roanga ake o te pō. Ko Nanny Titi, koia kei a ia mō te petipeti kāri. E mōhiotia ana e ia ngā kēmu katoa, engari ko tana tino, ko te 500. Ki te tīmatahia e Nan tēnei kēmu, kua mōhio te tangata, e hoki pōhara atu ana ia ki te kāinga! Kāore a Nanny Huia rāua ko Nanny Mākere e inu me te pūrei kāri, engari he toa a Nanny Huia ki te whakatangitangi ukulele; a Nanny Mākere ki te whakakori pūne. Ahakoa te hanga anahera o Nanny Huia, inā puta mai tana ukulele, kua puta mai anō hoki ngā waiata ngahau a te Māori; arā, “*She’s got strings on her temotemo like a banjo,*” ā, me tērā atu anō, “*Ka paku te teke, ka piki te puku, ka pālei vu*”! E hia kē nei ngā waiata paruparu pēnei a Nanny Huia.

A kāti, i tēnei pō, i kuhu mai aku kuia ki te kāuta. Kua mutu te kai o te pō, kua mutu te whakapaipai wharekai, nō reira kua noho mai aku kuia ki te koni ahi me te pahupahu. Ka noho a Nanny Miro ki te taha o te ahi ki te momi i tana paipa. Ko Nanny Titi, Nanny Huia rātou ko Nanny Mākere i noho mai i tana taha. Ka heria atu e au he tēpu ki mua i a rātou, ka whakaritea he kapu tī, kia pai ai tā rātou noho. Ka mea mai a Nanny Miro;

“E Rau, kārekau ana he wihiki i tō pēke? Mōhio ana ahau he pātara wihiki tāhau nā!”



“Kao e kui, karekau aku wihiki i te pō nei. I mea mai te tākuta me mutu tō inu wihiki. He kino rawa nō tō mate huka” - taku whakautu.

“Hei aha māku taku mate huka. He pīrangi kē nōku te mate wihiki!” - tā Nanny Miro.

“E mara, hei aha māku te mate wihiki! I kite koe i a Hōne i te pō nei? He mate tāne kē nōku hehehe” - tā Nanny Titi.

“A Hōne wai? Te tamaiti a Rāhera?” - te pātai a Nanny Huia.

“Kao e mara, te pouaru a Rawinia. Neke atu i te kotahi tau a Rawinia e ngaro ana. Nō reira kua wetekina e Hōne ngā kākahu taratara o mate. Horekau koe i kite i a ia? Haramai, haramai ana tētahi āhua, *yes by golly gosh*” - tā Nanny Titi whakamārama.

“E kī e kī! E mea mai ana koe, kei te kimi ipo koe? Ahakoa 95 tau tō pakeke, kei te hiakai tonu tō ngeru?” - te pātai a Nanny Huia.

“Mārika *yes!* Ahakoa 20, 50, 95 tau rānei. Horekau taku ngeru e ngata kia mate rā anō taku tinana!” - te kī a Nanny Titi.

“E hika! Kia tūpato, ki te whāngaia tō ngeru, kei whati tō hope!” - te whakautu a Nanny Huia.

Ka pakaru mai te kata i a mātou katoa. Kātahi ka ngiha mai anō te paipa a Nanny Miro. He tohu tēnei, kua tau te noho a ngā kuia nei. Kāore rātou mō te hoki moata ki te moe.

Ka tīmata a Nanny Titi.

“E mara, i tērā tau, i te ‘*date*’ ahau i tētahi korokē nā nō Ruātoki. Koinei te kupu a taku mokopuna. Kīhai au i mōhio he aha te tikanga o tēnei mea te ‘*date*’. Nō reira ka hakamārama mai taku mokopuna i te ‘*safe sex*’ me te ‘*contraception*’. *Aish* e mara! Kua mutu noa atu taku hakahānau tamariki, hei aha hoki te pōtae māku, pai noa iho te haere māori mai.” Ka puku kata mātou katoa ki ngā kōrero a Nanny Titi. Ka mea atu ahau,

“Nan, he aha koe i kore ai i whakahoki mai tō korokē nā ki te marae nei?”

Ka mea mai a Nanny Titi,

“Nō te mea *girl*, horekau te korokē nā i āta hakarongo mai. Horekau i hakarongo ki aku tohutohu, ki taku reo. Horekau pea ia i mōhio ki taku reo o Ngāti Hine. He reo anō kē tō mātou o te Nōta!”

“E mea ana koe nan!” - taku whakautu.

“Ae, nō reira, horekau te korokē nā i āta hakarongo mai, ka mekea ngā taringa *yes! By golly gosh!*” - tā Nanny Titi. Ka pakaru anō mai te kata i a mātou.

Ka tahuri a Nanny Titi ki a Nanny Miro. “Me koe e Miro? Kua roa koe e noho pouaru ana. Nō te matenga o tō hoa, horekau au i kite i a koe me tētahi atu tāne?”

Ka momi a Nanny Miro i tana paipa, me te āta whakaaro. Pēnei au kāore ia mō te whakautu. Kātahi ka tangohia e Nan tana paipa, ka kī;

“Me pono aku kōrero ki a koutou. Nō te matenga o taku hoa, kāore au i pīrangī ki tētehi atu. Ko taku Rewi, taku ao. Kāore i kō atu, kāore i kō mai. Heoi, i pā mai te ongeonge ki taku ngākau, te makariri ki taku tinana. Nā, ka tūtaki ahau i tētehi kuia nō Ngāti Kahungunu. He ātaahua te kuia nei. He wairua māhaki tōna. Nō reira, i whakaipoipo māua.”

Ka tumeke katoa mātou. Ka taka taku kapu, ka maringi taku tī i te papa. I taka te kauae o Nanny Titi. I te pūkana ngā whatu o Nanny Huia, anō nei he rama waka i te pō. Engari a Nanny Mākere, i te tiro pōauau atu. Kāore he kupu; kāore he oro; kāore he paku aha i puta i a mātou. Ko Nanny Titi te tuatahi;

“E mara, e mea ana koe, kua huri koe ki te kai ngeru?”

Ka whakautu a Nanny Miro “Ae e ruhi, he ngeru taku kai! Toru tekau tau ki muri i mate taku Rewi. Pēnei au ka mate anō hoki au i te korenga ōna. I te tō te rā ki runga i a au, engari nō taku tūtakitanga i a Mere, me taku tahuritanga ki te kai ngeru, kua ao mai anō te rā. Taku whakapae, koia nā te take, kua tata eke ahau ki te kotahi rau tau!”

“E kī e kī! E mea mai ana koe, ko te kai ngeru te take i ora ai koe mō te kotahi rau tau?” - te pātai a Nanny Titi.

“E mea ana koe e kui!” - te whakautu a Nanny Miro. Ka hoki anō ia ki te momi paipa.

“Hei aha hoki kōrua! Ko te oranga o te tangata kei ngā ringaringa o te Atua. Kāore he paku aha ka riwha i te kai ngeru!” Te tohe a Nanny Huia.

Ao ake i te ata, i te whakaaro tonu ahau mō Nanny Miro me āna kōrero inapō. Ka puta ahau ki waho ki te kimi wahie mō te ahi kia mahana ai te wai. Nō taku hokinga mai ki roto i te kāuta, i reira kē a Nanny Mākere. He huruhuru i te papa; he naihi i te kāuta; he toto i runga i te naihi. I te tunu kai a Nanny Mākere. Kāore i nui ngā kōrero me ngā pātai i puta i a ia inapō rā. He kuia hūmārie, he kuia noho mū i te nuinga o te wā. Ko tāna he noho, he whakarongo, he mahi i te mahi. He tino nui taku aroha mō Nanny Mākere, ā, koia taku tino. Ka kite mai ia i a au;

“Morena kōtiro! Pēwhea ana koe i tēnei ata ātaahua?”

“Pai ana Nan, me koe?”

“Ka nui taku ora. I tino au taku moe. I te āta whakaaro ahau ki ngā kupu i puta i a Miro inapō mō tana oranga. Kua āhua roa nei ahau e āwangawanga ana mō tōku ake oranga. He tino pirangi nōku, kia eke ki te kotahi rau tau pērā i a ia. I te tino whakamīharo ahau ki a ia inapō”

“Aaaae, me au tahi Nan, i tino tumeke ahau ki āna kōrero”

“Ae, tika tāu!”

“Nan, kei te aha koe? Kei te tunu parakuihi?”

“Ae”

“He aha kei roto i te kōhua?”

“He ngeru!”