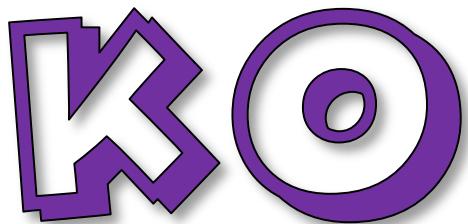


# NGAKE RĀUA



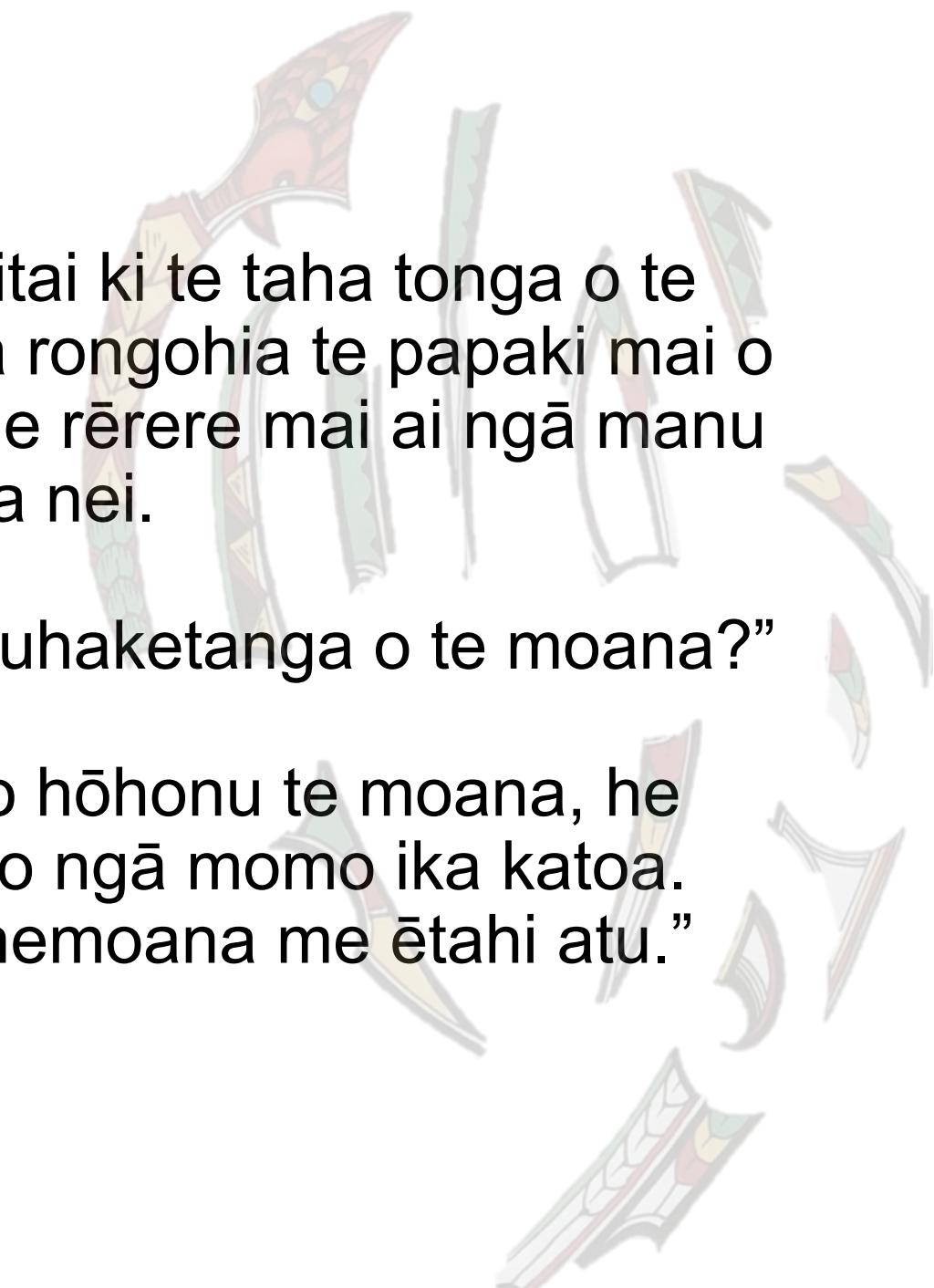
# WHĀTĀOTĀO

Ngā taniwha o Whanganui-a-Tara

I ngā wā o mua, i mua i te wā o Kupe mā, kātahi nei ka hīkina ake Te Ika-a-Māui mai i te ninihitanga o Tangaroa, ka noho ngā taniwha e rua nei, ko Ngake rāua ko Whātaitai.

I aua wā rā, he roto kē Te Whanganui-ā-Tara, ā, kāore he putanga atu ki te moana, ā, he maha ngā ika wai māori, ngā manu me ngā rākau o tēnei wāhi. Noho ai a Ngake rāua ko Whātaitai i konei i tēnei roto i te Upoko o te Ika-a-Māui.

Pai ana te noho a Ngake rāua ko Whātaitai i tō rāua roto motuhake, e whai wā ai rāua ki te mahi i ngā mahi e hiahia ana rāua. Te rahi hoki o te hiranga ki a Ngake. Pai ki a ia te reihi i ngā takutai, he whaiwhai ika, tuna tōna mahi, ā, he pekerangi tana mahi ki te hopu i ngā manu e tātata ana ki te wai. Hāunga anō a Whātaitai, he pai ki a ia te tīraha i runga i ngā takutai, he pāinaina, he moemoeā taniwha ūna mahi.



Ihā ka tata atu a Ngake rāua ko Whātaitai ki te taha tonga o te roto, e tutaki ai ngā pari ki ngā wai, kua rongohia te papaki mai o ngā ngaru, e ketekete mai ana. I te wā e rērere mai ai ngā manu o te moana, kua tīwaha atu ngā tokorua nei.

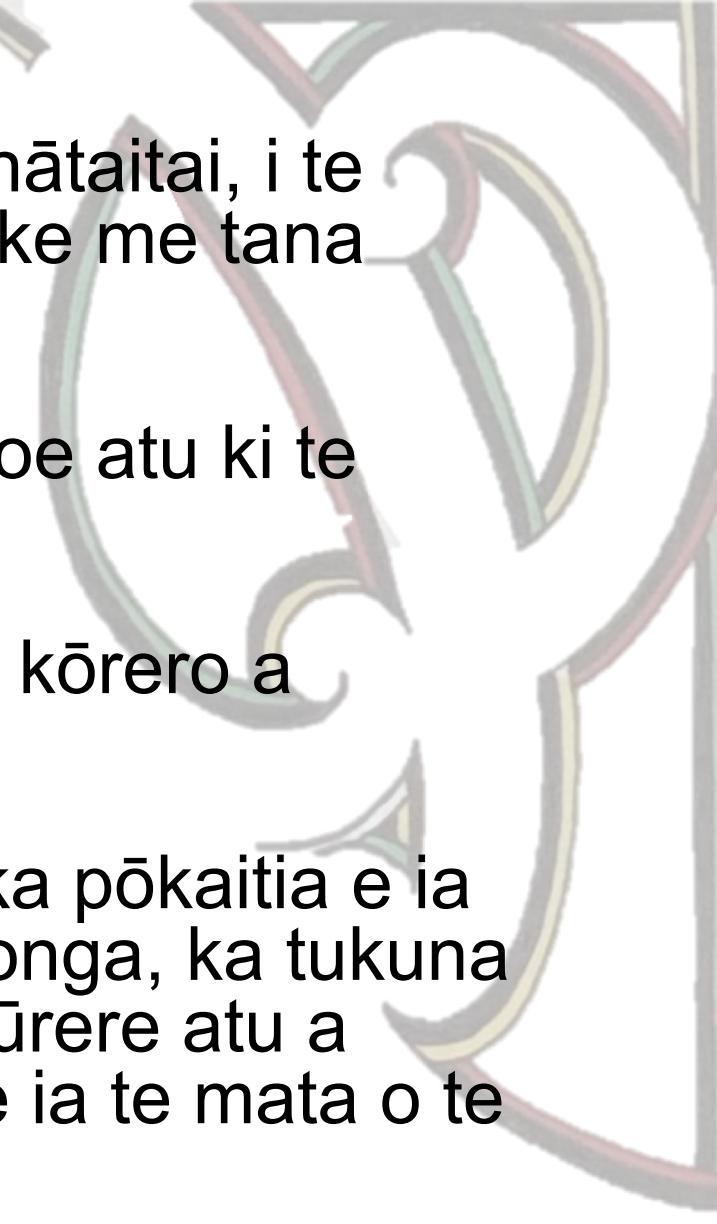
"Kōrero mai e manu mā, he aha te motuhaketanga o te moana?"

Kua whakahoki ake ngā manu, "He tino hōhonu te moana, he roa, he whānui hoki, e kaha ai te hunu o ngā momo ika katoa. Koinei hoki te kāinga o Tangaroa, o Hinemoana me ētahi atu."

I te rangi kē ngā whakaaro pōhewa a Whātaitai rāua ko Ngake e rērere haere ana, mō te moana nei. Kua tīraha a Whātaitai ki runga i tōna tuara, i waenganui tonu o te roto, he moemoeā te mahi, he pakore hoki i ngā oro o te moana mā tōna korokoro. Kua piupiuhia e Ngake tōna whiore, kua piki ake ngā ngaru, ki te pari atu ki te takutai o te roto.

Hori ana ngā tau, ka whānui ake ngā taniwha nei, kua whāiti hoki tā rāua roto.

Kua mārō kē te whakaaro a Ngake, kua nui ake a ia i tōna wāhi noho, nāna i huri pērā ai ngā whakaaro a Whātaitai, me whai huarahi rāua ki te puta ake i tā rāua roto e karapoti nei i a rāua.



I tētahi ata raumati, i te wā e pāinaina rā ana a Whātaitai, i te taha tokerau o te roto, e hurihuri haere ana a Ngake me tana tīwaha ake anō.

"Koinei te rā, e pakaru atu au i tēnei roto, ka kauhoe atu ki te moana mutunga kore!"

Ka oho ake a Whātaitai i tana moe, ka hiamo ki te kōrero a Ngake.

Ka hoki ake a Ngake ki te taha tokerau o te roto, ka pōkaitia e ia tōna whiore. Ka hāngai ake ki ngā pari o te taha tonga, ka tukuna e ia tōna whiore. Ka pakaru mai tōna umere, ka pūrere atu a Ngake i te roto, ka eke ake ki te takutai, ka poua e ia te mata o te pari.

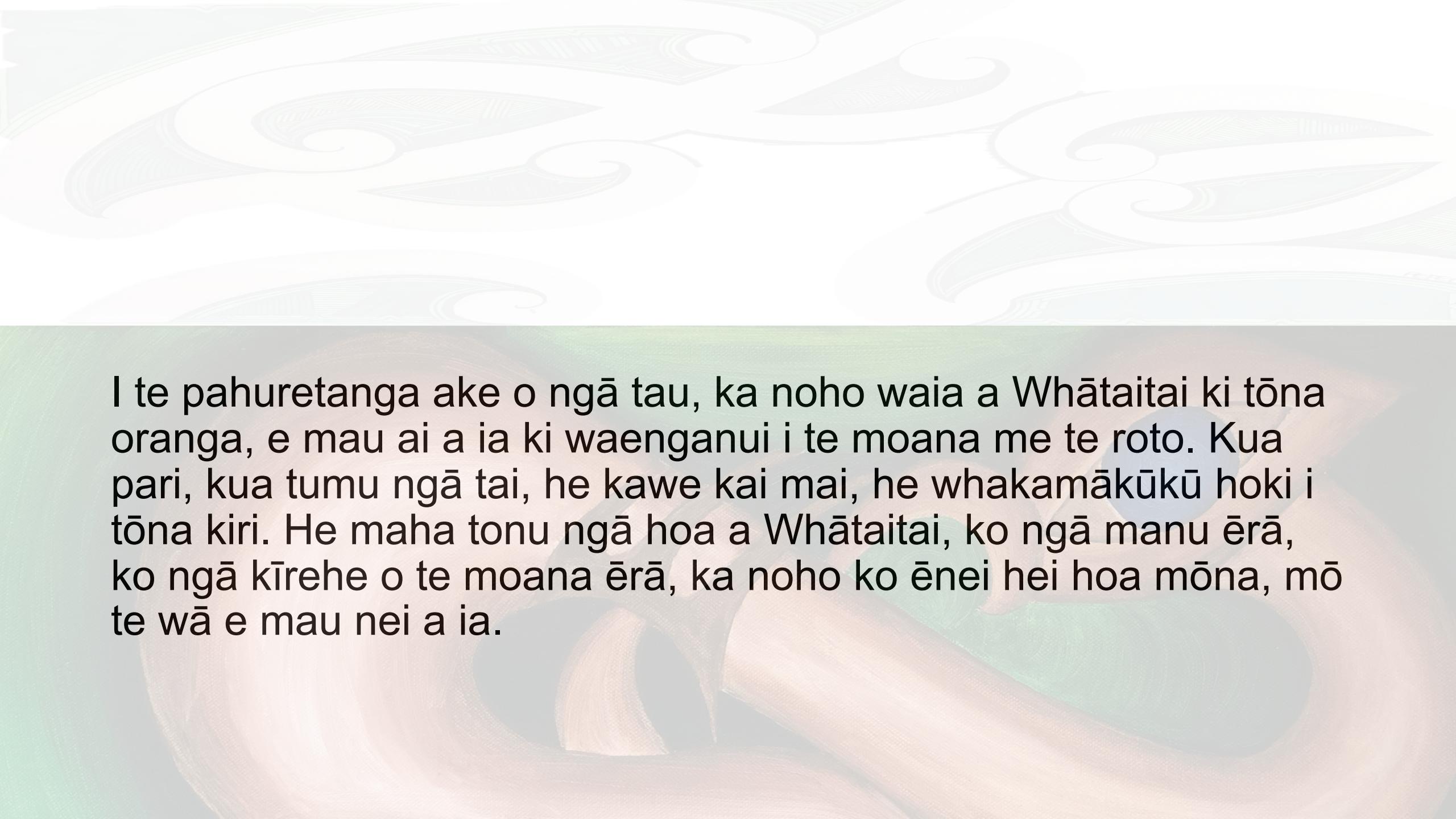
Nā te kaha o Ngake ki te tuki ki te pari, ka pakarutia mai, ka pūrere ngā tokā nui o taua pari, ka eke atu a ia ki Te Moana o Raukawa. Ahakoa i te motu, i te marū a Ngake, kātahi a ia ka reti atu ki te moana, kua warea a ia ki te hōpara haere i te moana, kia ngata ai ūna moemoeā.

I tūmeke a Whātaitai ki te kite i te pakarutanga ake o Ngake, engari i te harakoa tonu a ia i tae pai atu tōna tuakana ki tēra taha o ngā pari. Mōhio tonu a Whātaitai ko ia ā muri ake.

Ka hoki ake a Whātaitai ki te taha tonga o te roto, ka pōkaitia e ia tōna whiore, pērā i tōna tuakana. Ka karakia atu a ia ki ngā atua o ngā taniwha, ka tukuna e ia tōna whiore. Heoi anō, nā te mangere o Whātaitai i ngā rā kua pahure, kāore tonu a ia i tino kaha, pērā i a Ngake, ā, he pōturi rawa tōna tuku i a ia i tōna tuakana.

I te eketanga o Whātaitai i te puare i whakarere a iho e Ngake, kāore a ia i mōhio kua puta kē te tai ki waho, ka tō ko tōna puku ki runga i te oneone, nā tērā ka āta haere tōna pakarutanga ake. Ka mau a Whātaitai, i waenganui i te moana me te roto, ka tīmata tana piupiu i tōna whiore, ki te neke i a ia, kāore tonu i taea.

Ka noho tonu a Whātaitai ki reira, kāore rā e taea e ia te aha, ko tōna wawata, kia kuhu rā anō mai te tai, ka hiki ake i a ia, ka kawe atu ki tērā atu taha. I te hokinga mai o te tai, he whakamākūkū i tōna kiri, he kawe mai i ngā ika hei kai mōna. Engari ka mau a Whātaitai ki konei, kāore ia e taea te neke.



I te pahuretanga ake o ngā tau, ka noho waia a Whātaitai ki tōna oranga, e mau ai a ia ki waenganui i te moana me te roto. Kua pari, kua tumu ngā tai, he kawe kai mai, he whakamākūkū hoki i tōna kiri. He maha tonu ngā hoa a Whātaitai, ko ngā manu ērā, ko ngā kīrehe o te moana ērā, ka noho ko ēnei hei hoa mōna, mō te wā e mau nei a ia.