

KUPE



Waiata

Written by Tom Alesana

Reo Māori

*Ehara taku mana i te mana kore noa
Engari taku mana he mana tuku iho
I takea mai i tōku tupuna
I ā Kupe ariki e
Ko Kupe te kaiwhakaterere moana
Ko Kupe te kaiwhakatōmene whenua
Ko Kupe te tangata
Ko Matahourua te waka
Anei ngā uri e tū nei
E tū nei*

Whakamārama

*My power and authority is not meaningless
My power and authority is my birthright
Passed to me from my illustrious ancestor
From the great Kupe
Kupe the navigator of the seas
Kupe discoverer of land
Kupe is the captain
Matahourua is the canoe
And we are the descendants that stand proudly today
Standing united*

Kupe is our tupuna who travelled to Aotearoa from Hawaiki upon his waka Matahourua, he travelled across the Pacific Ocean chasing Te Wheke a Maturangi. He slayed the octopus and placed the eyes at the top of Te Taihu, two islands named Ngā Whatu Kaiponu, the mercenary eyes. It is from this story that our people attribute the naming of our ancestral sea, Raukawakawa. Our people believe the eyes of the octopus were tapu or sacred, therefore they would cover their eyes with pare kawakawa (wreathes) so they would not lay eyes upon them. When they passed the eyes of the octopus they would throw the pare kawakawa into the sea so it was littered with kawakawa leaves, hence the name Te Moana o Raukawakawa.

Kupe had many kaitiaki here like Te Rupe a Ruapaka, the double headed wood pigeon who resides in the Te Hoiere Valley. Te Rupe a Ruapaka was sent to find food and didn't return, which was a sign that there was an abundance of food sources. Kupe sent Te Kawau a Toru out to check the tides near Te Aumiti and broke his wing which indicated to Kupe that the water was treacherous and unsafe for crossing. Kupe also left Kaikaiāwaro at the entrance to the Sounds for Matua Hautere to invoke upon his arrival to Te Taihu. Kupe is known for chasing Kereopa and Pani, thus naming the Boulder Bank in Nelson, Te Taero a Kereopa.

This waiata celebrates his deeds and encourages our people to be explorative, inquisitive, smart and brave like Kupe.

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Ko Kupe te tupuna nāna te moana i whakaterera mai i Hawaiki ki Aotearoa i runga i tōna waka ko Matahourua. I te whai ia i Te Wheke a Maturangi. Ka patua te wheke ka whakanōhia ngā whatu ki te raki o Te Taihu nei, ā, ka tapaina ko Ngā Whatu Kaiponu. E whakapono ana te iwi he tapu ngā whatu o te wheke nā reira ka taupokina ngā karu tāngata ki ngā pare kawakawa i ngā wā ka tata haere atu ki aua motu kia kore e pā mai he aituā. Ka hipa atu te tāngata i Ngā Whatu Kaiponu ka whiua ngā rau ki te moana. Nā tēnei ka tapaina te moana ko Raukawakawa.

He maha ngā kaitiaki/taniwha a Kupe pērā i Te Rupe o Ruapaka, te kererū upoko rua ka noho i te riu o Te Hoiere. I tukuna Te Rupe o Ruapaka ki te kimi kai engari kīhai ia i hoki atu. He tohu tēnā he wāhi haumako, he wāhi makuru kai. I tukuna Te Kawau a Toru kia tirohia ngā aukume moana o Te Aumiti. I whati tōna parirau i reira e tohua ai me tūpato te iwi i ngā riporipo o Te Aumiti. I mahue ake te taniwha a Kaikaiāwaro i te waha o Ngā Kokoru o Te Taihu nei mā Matua Hautere hei ārahi i tana toronga i te rohe. E mōhiotia whānuitia a Kupe i tana whai i a Kereopa rāua ko Pani, ā, ka tapaina tētahi wāhi ko Te Taero a Kereopa (Boulder Bank).

He waiata tēnei e whakanui ana i tana hāereere ki tēnei o ngā rohe e āki ana i tō mātou iwi ki te whai i ngā tapuwae, i te māia hoki o Kupe.

Nā Wayne Hippolite i whakamāori