

## Mata Kai Kutu

He kiri kehu, he kiri kōmā me ko te whenua e takatakahia nei. Kua koruruki ōku kamo, me ko te pō e ngau nei. Whakatangatanga ki runga, whakatangatanga ki raro, e ko te puru, kua tāia te moko, hei hoa matenga mōku. He mauri nō āwekoweko e hao mai nei ki tēnei taunga. Nā ngā toroparawae o Tū au i whakapakeke, hei mata kai kutu mō te whenua e kaikai nei e te taniwha kiritea. Tēnei a Te Kohu, he tamaiti nā Hinepūkohurangi, nā Te Maunga. ①

2 o Hōngongoi, 1864

Kua tutū te pūehu ki te rohe pōtae o te Kīngitanga, ki ngā whenua ātanga o Waikato taniwha rau. I kautere mai ngā kōrero takuahi, ka kakama te tū, ka tāwhaiwhai atu tōku iwi o Tūhoe ki Ōrākau Pā kia hono ai ngā rau awa o te motu, kia noho ai te taniwha kiritea hei kai mā Hinenuitepō. Rewi Maniapoto, te pūioio rau o te tōtara haemata, nei ngā uri o Te Hapuoneone kua tau mai nei! ①

Mātai ana ngā kamo i te taiao e karapoti nei. Ngā reo wainene o ngā manu e kore e rangona, kua ngū te wawā o tātarakihi, kua mū te whenua. Ka wawara te hau, ka rongo i te pako o te pū e konihi ana i ngā wai tipua o te awa o Waikato. Ka puta te karanga a Rewi Maniapoto, ka whakarite te iwi ki te pakanga. I a au e noho ana ki te awakari, ka tau mai a Hine Takurua ki taku taha. Ka kikī aku taringa i te pako o te pū, tērā te tangi o ‘wāhine’ ka tau mai ki taku aroaro. Pōautinitini ana te Māori, hurō ana a Tauwiwi. Kua kohura ōku pongaponga i te tīere o toto e māturuturu ana i te kiri, i te ahurea, i te whenua e muru nei e Tauwiwi iroiro, Tauwiwi kutukutu, e te taniwha kiritea. ①

I te tūtakinga o ngā mata, ka mataara tāku tū. Nei te kākā parakiwai ka pakanga atu ki te kākā kura o Tauwiwi, kia areare ngā mata! Ka tātari au i ōna kākahu, ka pupū mai te riri. Te mā o te tīhate, te mā o te kiri, te mā kua whakaeke poka noa mai ki ōku whenua. Te whero o te koti, te whero o te toto, te whero e maringi nei ki ōku whenua. Ka pao taku taiaha i tōna ūpoko, ka pako mai tana pū. Kua motu te kiri, tīhaehae ana te kiko, kua tau mai te mamae. Kua tō te rā, ko au me taku kotahi e noho kōrangaranga ana i tēnei wā, ka tīmata a hirikapo te hikohiko mai, engari e kore a tinana e whai. Ka takina ake e au he karakia: ① ②

*“E tō e te rā, nau mai ko te pō*

*Ko te pō nui*

*Ko te pō roa*

*Ko te pō e rea*

*Ko te pō e whita*

*Ko te pō e au ai te moe*

*Ka tūturu e Rangī, ka tūturu e Papa*

*Ka whakamaua kia tīna*

*Haumi e, Hui e, Taiki e!”*

I ōku whakaaro e akitō ana, ka takoto au. E kitea ana te marama kōratarata, ko koe rā e Rona. Tiaho mai rā, e tū koe hei māpura i tēnei wā pōuriuri. E tīrama mai ana ngā whetū, ka taimaha ngā kamo, kua māhorahora te mamae, kua tau mai te ngēngē, kua tau anō mai te ngehegehe.

Ao rawa ake, matawai ana a kamo, ka oho a mauri i te kitenga o te taiao hou e karapoti ana i a au.

Ko ngā poupou o te whare he maire, ko te tāhūhū he tākirikau, he takaiapu. Ko ngā tāngata o roto, he kiritea. Uia mai te pātai e te rangatira o tēnei hunga, **“Tēna, he aha ngā rautaki pakanga o tō iwi?”**

E kore au e urupare atu, ka huri te pātai hei tono, e mea ana, **“Whakamārama mai ngā rautaki pakanga o tō iwi!”** I kōnei ka pupū mai te whakaaro me tū au hei pūrahorua. I koha atu au i ngā kōrero teka ki te iwi, ko tā rātou whakahoki mai ko te whakapono.

Tāria te wā, ko au i tū hei ringa matau ki te rangatira kiritea, engari āku mahi pūrahorua, tē aro i a ia. He hoiho taku terenga, he kākahu mahana ōku korowai, ko te utu nui o ngā mahi pūrahorua, ko te nanea a tia. Kāti ake, he rite anō taku noho ki te noho a te kiore. Ko tā te kiore, he whakamomona anō i a ia ki ngā kai a ētahi kē atu. Ko ngā kai e whakamomona nei, ko ngā kōrero e hāngai nei ki ngā rautaki pakanga o te hunga kiritea. Ka noho ngū te kiore nei, ka tatari, ka whanga ki te wā e tika ana, kia pai ai taku tuku i ngā rautaki pakanga ki tōku iwi ake, ki ōku rangatira ake.

Kua tae te wā kia hoki atu ki taku tuakiritanga motuhake. Tatari ana ki te tōnga o te rā kia āhei ai taku kōnihi atu ki tōku iwi ake. I te aranga o te rā, i kitea āku mahi kūpapa e te rangatira. I konei pupū ake te pakanga nui.

Ka wero ngā tao a te Māori, ka pako mai ngā pū a te Pākehā. I koha atu au i a au anō hei raukakai i tēnei pakanga. I te pakonga o te pū i tīmata te kiri te motu, i tīhae mai te kiko, i huri ngā whakaaro ki te toi o ngā rangi. Kua tau au ki tōku taunga mutunga, ki te pō e au ai te moe.