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978-1-108-03960-4 - The Ancient History of the Maori, His Mythology and Traditions: Volume 2: Horo-uta or Taki-Tumu Migration

John White

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The Ancient History of the Maori, His Mythology and Traditions

First published between 1887 and 1890, this six-volume work, containing Maori texts with English translations and commentary, and engraved illustrations, was one of the first printed records of the oral traditions of the Maori. The project was commissioned by the New Zealand government in 1879 when it was observed that, due to the introduction of European culture and education, indigenous traditions were in danger of dying out. The material was collected by John White (1826–91), an ethnographer, public servant and writer who had arrived in New Zealand as a boy and first began documenting Maori poetry in the 1840s. Volume 2, published in 1887, focuses on narratives including Rona and the Moon, the many exploits of the hero Maui, and the myths of the original canoes, as well as songs, chants and invocations.

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VOLUME 2:
HORO-UTA OR TAKI-TUMU MIGRATION

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Frontispiece Vol: II



PAKIPAKI-TAHA
(Revenge.)

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THE
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HORO-UTA OR TAKI-TUMU MIGRATION.

BY
JOHN WHITE.

VOLUME II.

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O THIS gloomy and keen regret for thee, my child!
 I feel my sorrow and my anguish now.
 O son of mine! why didst thou silently depart,
 Nor utter words of long farewell,
 And speak thy last request to me?
 But now with thee I'll rise,
 And follow with the mighty throng
 Of those our ancient men,
 And fathers now with Whati-hua;
 Nor heed the warning words
 Of Rua-pu-te-hanga—
 She of old, who said,
 "Return; nor dare the death
 That must ensue if you persist,
 And follow her who, reckless, dared
 The surging waves of Rakei-mata-taniwha."
 Oh! come, come back, my child, to me, and
 Tell the news from countries trod by thee.
 But thou, when asked to give our history,
 Make answer, "I am young, and but a child,
 And have forgotten what my parents taught."
 Yet we have heard from days of old
 That Tai-nui, Arawa, and Mata-tua,
 With Kura-hau-po and Toko-maru,
 Were the canoes in which our great progenitors
 Sailed across the mighty ocean which we see.
 And Hotu-roa, Nga-toro, and Tama-te-kapua
 And Rongo-kako, these with Tama-tea
 In the Arawa came, and whose descendants now
 Have spread and covered all these lands.
 And we will own the truth,
 And now admit the error
 Which Te-tauri charged us with.
 'Tis true, Te-tauri and ourselves
 Are offspring of Te-wairangi,
 And you of Pou-tu also came.
 Nor can we count the many lines
 Of Tua-matua, or our pedigree
 Rehearse. A summer's day would
 Not give time to tell it all.
 O-kai-whare was the ancestor
 Of Kivi-tai, and Hine-rehu
 Came of Wai-tapu; and Kahu-rere-moa
 Wed the son of Upoko-iti,
 Who lived in days of old,
 When Whiro's law the people ruled;
 When Pare-kawa, Tama-mutu,
 And Waka-toto-pipi lived,
 And Tu-roa and Rangi-hopu-ata
 Ruled in Whanga-nui.
 But you and they are one in rank,
 O son of him whose fame
 Was heard by every tribe, and even
 By the moon and morning star, high up in heaven,
 And all the noted men of Wai-kato
 Whose proverb is, "The plume of Mo-tai—
 Of the multitude of men."

Lament for Te-tahuri, son of Te-whata-mui.

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P R E F A C E .

AT page 84 of the Maori part of the present volume I have taken advantage of the able work, "Nga Tupuna Maori," published by Sir George Grey, K.C.B., and have quoted the passages there to be found relative to Maui, Ira-waru, and Ngahue. To the Rev. J. W. Stack—from his writings contained in the "Proceedings of the New Zealand Institute"—I owe the passages relating to Rua-pupuke and Hine-matiko-tai found on page 162 of the English part. And the passages respecting Hou-mea and Tau-tini-awhitia, on pages 167 and 173 of the English part, I owe to the valuable writings of W. Colenso, Esq., F.L.S., contained in the "Proceedings of the New Zealand Institute."

JOHN WHITE.

Wellington, 3rd April, 1887.

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