



## KAI HEA TE MANA O TE REO MĀORI?

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**K**āore te aroha i ahau rā e  
i runga i te rere a Riwai i waenga pārae  
mō ngā ruru rā e tangi tautohe nei.  
Mō ngā heihei,  
he iwi tohunga rawa rā ki te mahi e  
ki te āta whakaaro  
ki te wehewehe mai i ngā hāora o te pō nei  
i te toko matua  
i te tākiritanga mai o te ata nei ...  
(He wāhanga nō tētahi waiata nā Te Kooti Rikirangi)

Kai roto i tēnei waiata a Te Matua Tangata e kī ana, he mātauranga ake te ruru rāua ko te heihei i te tangata. E taea ana e te ruru rāua ko te heihei te wehewehe i ngā hāora o te pō, i te mea ko te pō te wā rēre o te ruru, ko te pō te wā e tangi ai tōna reo. He mea hanga te ruru mō te pō. Ko tā te heihei he nehu atu i te pō, he whakaō, he karanga i te awatea ki te ao. Kua eke mai te tuarā nui o awatea, kua oho te ao, kua hoki te ruru ki tōna puta, kua ketuketu ko te heihei. Ka pō, kua hoki ko te heihei ki tōna taumatua, kua oho ko te ruru.

Engari anō te heihei rāua ko te ruru i te tangata, kai te mōhio ki ō rāua ao, kai te kōrero tonu hoki i ō rāua reo. Kai te pīkaokao tonu te heihei, kai te kōkou tonu te ruru. Waihoki kai te heihei tonu te heihei, kai te ruru tonu te ruru. He pērā ano ētahi atu kararehe. Inā hoki kei te auau tonu te reo o te kurī, kai te horuhoru tonu te reo o te poaka. Kāore anō te poaka kia kurī, kāore anō hoki te kurī kia poaka.

Tēnā ia ko te Māori, aue, e hika mā e, kua kore e aro. Ko te nuinga o te Māori kua kōrero kē i te reo o tētahi atu iwi, engari ko te mea kāore e taea te whakarerekē ko tōna whakapapa Māori. Ki te pātaitia te pātai, mā wai e ora ai te reo? Tōna tikanga mā te Māori anō e ora ai tōna reo. He mea hanga mai hoki taua reo mōna. Engari kua tata haere atu nei te reo ki te whāngaromanga, kua tūtakarerewa ngā kātua o te reo, kua kimi huarahi i ngā pito katoa o te ao e ora ai te reo Māori. Engari e kī ana a Timoti Karetu, mā te Māori anō e ora ai te reo. Ki te kore e taea e te Māori, kāti nehua rangatiratia te reo.

Nō reira ko te ariā o tēnei tuhinga, ko te pakirehua i tō tātou reo, te reo o tuawhakarere i waiho iho nei hai reo mō te Māori, hai reo mō te whenua i tapaina nei e whakapata mā ko Aotearoa, kia pūwawau tōna oro mai i tētahi pari kārangaranga, ki tētahi pari kārangaranga. Koia te reo i tipu ake i te whenua nei, i heke iho i te rangi, ka tipu, ka rea, ka rangiwhāwhā ki ngā tōpito katoa, ka noho hai reo rangatira mō tēnei whenua me tōna iwi Māori. Tē ai te mahara ka haumanu mō ake, ake, e kore rawa e tāharahara. Aue, te pōhēhē o tāukiuki, te pōhēhē o mohoa. Ko te reo kua wawara noa kua rite ki te ahī e whekowheko ana. Ko te nuinga o te iwi Māori nōna nei tēnei reo kua korero kē i te reo o tētahi atu iwi, kua wareware ki tōna ake reo.

Mēnā he tika te kōrero, ko te reo te mauri o te mana Māori (Smith, 2000, p. 237), ko taku pātai, kai hea te mana o te reo Māori? Ka tika te whakaaro ki te tuku i tēnei pātai i tēnei wā tonu, i te mea, kai te takahi tonu te rōpū arotake reo (Sharples, 2010) i te mata o te whenua, ki te whakaemi whakaaro, hei whakatakoto i te rautaki reo hou. Nā te Minita Māori tēnei kāhui i tuku kia rere, ki te whakamoana i ngā kōrero me ngā whakaaro o tēnā o tēnā. He aha ai? Ki te hanga māhere rautaki, kia haruru anō ai te ao i te reo korihī me te reo korokī o ngā manu Māori. Ae, ko rātou kai te kimi i te titikura ki te whakahaumanu, ki te whakamāui hoki i tō tātou reo Māori. Engari, ko te pātai e kōingo nei ki tōku puku ko tēnei nā; he aha tēnei e whāia nei e tātou kia ora ai, ko te mana o te reo Māori ko ngā kaupapa reo Māori rānei? Mēnā ko te mana o te reo, ko taku urupounamu tuarua ko tēnei nā, kai hea te mana o te reo Māori?

Mēnā ka hoki ngā mahara ki ōneherā, ki te ao o Ngāi Kurumatāreheru mā, ko te iwi, ko te hapū, ko te whānau, ko te hapori te mana o te reo. I aua wā, he kōrero Māori ngā tāngata katoa o Aotearoa (Poutu, 2007, p. 24), kurupākara ana hoki ngā reo ā iwi me te reo ā takiwā (Karetū & Waite, 1988-1989). Ahakoa i tau ngā rākau kōhuru a te Pākehā ki ēnei motu, me ana ture wetiweti ki te patu i te reo Māori (Hill, 2010), ka mau tonu te reo ki ngā hapori Māori me ngā kāinga Māori hei reo motuhake, hei reo rangatira. Ki te hoki tātou ki ngā tau whā tekau, rima tekau, ono tekau hoki, mātotoru ana te hunga mōhio ki te kōrero Māori. Tawetawē ana ngā kāinga Māori i te reka o te reo Māori. Pērā hoki te āhua o ngā marae i aua wā. Tanuku ana ngā pae o ngā marae puta noa i te motu i te rahi o ngā pū kōrero, tīhoihoi ana ngā marae ātea i te reo waitī o te rake toetoe.

Ahakoa ka tokatū moana ngā hapori Māori hei hapori reo Māori, nō te hekenga o te tini ngerongerō o te iwi Māori

ki ngā tāone nui, ka hīmata te tino ngāhorohoro o te reo (Durie, 1998). Ka taka ki ngā tau whitu tekau ka puta te rangahau a Benton (1978). Nā ana kitenga ka māharahara te iwi Māori, ka tere ngaro pūmau atu te reo Māori (Tangaere, 1997), nō reira ka whakatūhia ngā kaupapa whakamarumaruru reo, ā, ka whakarewahia te Kōhanga Reo (Government Review Team, 1988), te Kura Kaupapa Māori (Nepe, 1991), te mahi pāpāho (Mataamua, 2006), Te Ataarangi (Kokomuka Consultancy Ltd, 2002), ngā whare wānanga Māori, me ngā kaupapa maha ki te manaaki i tō tātou reo. Kua whakamanahia te reo i roto i ngā ture Pākehā (Māori Language Commission, 1991), kua tū Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori hei kāhui whakamahiri i te reo. Me mihi ka tika ki te hunga nā rātou ēnei kaupapa i whakatū i runga hoki i te whakaaro, me Tangaroa-kiri- uka, me Tangaroa-kiri- kōhatu te ao Māori, kei mū tōna reo.

Ehara taku kōrero i te kōrero tirohura ki ngā mahi rangatira a ngā manuariki ki te whakaora reo i roto i ngā tau. Kāo. I haere tēnei kura takahipuni reo ki te riritūngutu mō te reo Māori (O'Regan, 2006). Otirā, ko taku whakapae, i roto i te riri awatea nei, i hūnuku te mana o te reo mai i ngā kāinga me ngā hapori Māori ki wāhi kē. Ki taku titiro, nā tātou tonu, nā te iwi Māori te mana o te reo i heri ki ngā kaupapa whakahaumanu reo, ki reira whakatō ai. Nā te whakapono o te marea, mā ēnei kaupapa te reo ka ora ai, i ahu te pītau whakarei o te waka Māori ki ngā kaupapa nei. I tēnei wā kai te kari tonu tātou, kai te wāhi tonu tātou i tēnei māhere, ānō nei mā ēnei kaupapa te reo ka eke panuku, eke Tangaroa. E hika mā, auare ake.

Ka mutu, kua toru tekau tau nei tātou e takahi ana i tēnei huarahi, engari kai te mimiti tonu te hunga mōhio ki te kōrero Māori. I te tau 1978 i puta te kōrero, rima tekau mano te maha o ngā tāngata matatau ki te reo Māori, waihoki, rua tekau mā waru mano tāngata āhua mōhio ki te reo (Waite, 1992). Ahakoa kua pukahu te rahi o te iwi Māori, kua heke kē te hunga mōhio pū ki te reo. I tēnei wā, tekau mā waru mano noa iho te maha o te hunga mōhio ki te whakaputa i ō rātou whakaaro katoa ki te reo Māori (Māori Language Commission, 2009).

Ko tētahi atu take hei mānakanaka i te āhua o te reo Māori, e ai ki ngā rangahau, kai te ngaro haere te reo o ngā hapori reo Māori. Kua paraweranui te kōrero, 'kai a Tūhoe te reo, kai a Tūhoe ngā tikanga.' Koinei te whakapono o ngā iwi kai tua i ngā maunga o Te Urewera (O'Regan, 2000). Engari kai te taupatupatu ēnei whakaaro ki ngā rangahau kua puta i te tau nei. I roto i te rangahau reo mō Ruatāhuna kua puta te kōrero,

...residents of Ruatāhuna agree that there has been a decline in the amount and quality of te reo Māori used by residents, and while Ruatāhuna may have a relatively high number of Māori speakers, many choose to speak English instead (Mataamua, 2010).

Ehara i te mea ko Ruatāhuna anake. Kua pā mai hoki te mimiti o te reo ki Waikaremoana (Mataamua, 2010) me ngā nōhanga katoa o Tūhoe whānui. Ko te kitenga mīharo katoa pea ki ahau, ko ngā kōrero kai Tatauranga Aotearoa. I roto i ā rātou ake mahi rangahau mō te reo Māori, kai mua tonu te reo o Tūhoe (Statistics New Zealand, 2001, p. 13). Mēnā he tika tēnei kitenga, me taku whakapae mō te matemate haere o te reo kai ngā hapori o Tūhoe, ko taku pātai, kai te pēhea te reo o iwi kē?

Ko te take e anipā nei tōku ngākau i tēnei wā, ko te whakaaro anohea o ētahi, kai te ora te reo. Nā te kaha pea o te iwi Māori ki te pakanga mō te reo, me te maha o ngā kaupapa tautoko reo kua puta, kai te pōhēhē tātou kai te pai tō tātou reo. Neke atu i te rua rau miriona tāra te nui o te pūtea ka pau ia tau mō nga kaupapa reo (Sharples, 2010). Engari ahakoa te nui o tēnei pūtea, me te rahi o ngā kaupapa reo Māori, kai te ngaro haere tonu te reo.

He aha i pēnei ai? Ki ahau nei, ko te pūtake i pēnei ai, ko te māngere o te iwi Māori ki tōna ake reo, me te whakaaro nanu mā ngā kaupapa reo te reo e ora ai. Kua whai mana te reo i roto i ngā kōti, i ngā tari kāwanatanga (Waitangi Tribunal, 1986), i roto hoki i ngā kaupapa pāpāho. Kua tuwhera ngā kura, ngā wānanga me ngā momo whare maire reo hei whakaako i te reo Māori. Ko te nawe, ahakoa ēnei rauemi kai te kōrero Pākehā te ao Māori (TVNZ, 2010). Nō reira, me pēhea te whakakōrero i te tāngata Māori, kia Māori ō rātou arero? Ka aha tātou ki te tākirikiri i te tauwharewharenga o te ngākau kōhatu, kia rere ngā kareāroto mō tō tātou reo? Nō te mea, ahakoa pēhea te pai o ngā mahi pāpāho, me te pai o ngā kaupapa whakaako reo nei, me te nui o te moni, ki te kore tātou e kōrero i tō tātou reo, ka mate te reo.

Kāore au i te whakanano i ngā kaupapa whakamāui reo, me ngā mahi a ngā piki kōtuku reo Māori. Kai runga noa atu te mahi a ēnei hunga. Engari, ko taku whakapae, kai ēnei kaupapa reo te mana o te reo Māori, ā, kai te noho ko te moni hei atua mō te kaupapa. I mua i ngā kaupapa reo nei, he kōrero Māori ngā kāinga Māori. Kāore he moni, kāore he rauemi reo, kāore he aha. I nāianeī, kai a tātou ngā taonga katoa, engari kai te kōrero Pākehā kē tātou. Ko tētahi o ngā kōrero rongonui kai te ao Māori ko tēnei, 'nō te Pākehā te hē'. Ae, he tika tēnei, he kino ngā mahi weriweri a te Pākehā ki a tātou me tō tātou reo. Engari kua huri te ao, nō te Māori te ao, ka taea e tātou te whakaora te reo mēnā koirā tā



tātou i hiahia ai. Kai ō tātou ringaringa, kai a tātou te tikanga.

Ko te mahi a te rōpū arotake reo, he titiro ki te taha moni, ki te whakatatoko i te māhere rautaki ki te tohatoha i ngā pūtea. He mahi whakahirahira tēnei mō tō tātou reo, ā, kai te whai te pōkai reo i te rōpū kia taka mai he hereni mā rātou me ā rātou kaupapa reo. Ko te whakaaro pea, e whai i muri i a Rehua, kia kai ai koe i te kai' (Mead, 2007).

Ko te mate pea o tēnei, ko te moni, ko te kaupapa reo rānei te mea nui, ehara ko te reo. Kai te hanga pā tūwatawata ētahi hei karapoti i ngā kura, i ngā kōhanga, i te pouaka whakaata Māori, i ngā kaupapa reo kia ora ai ēnei whare. Ki ahau, kai te hē tēnei, kua meatia ko te kōtā ki mua i te hōiho. Ki te kore he reo, kāore he take o ngā kaupapa reo.

Tēnā, me aha tātou? Ki a au, e rua ngā whakautu ki tēnei pātai. Tuatahi, me whakatō anō i te kākano o te reo ki te whatumanawa o te iwi Māori hei tuhi mareikura mōna. Me akiaki i a tātou anō kia kaikā tātou ki te kōrero i tō tātou reo. I tēnei ao, kai te whakaaro tātou, mēnā kai te ora ngā kaupapa reo, ka ora te reo Māori. Kāo! Me matapaki te tangata i te tangata, kua ko te rōpū, kua ko te kaupapa.

...what we have done is make the language the responsibility of institutions so that we can say, 'it's not my fault I don't speak Māori; I was caned at school; it's the job of the kōhanga'. We apportion the blame on the collective so that individuals don't have to own the situation. This is not right. The language is the responsibility of us all no matter what background we come from. For too long the few have maintained the language for the many. There is no excuse for not being able to speak Māori. If you can't, the answer is simple - learn! Me ako! Many will find all kinds of excuses not to learn. Therefore the language is viewed as a want and not a need. Every Māori must reflect on your situation, examine your commitment to your language and ask yourself, what contribution have you made to ensuring language revitalization? Don't make excuses or look to attribute blame elsewhere. Let not our reo be one of the languages that fade into oblivion every year. I will leave you to your conscience to ponder that (Mataamua & Temara, 2008, pp. 9-10).

Tuarua, me whakahoki te reo ki tōna ahuru mōwai, ki tōna kapua whakapīpī. Mēnā ka āta kumanu tātou i te reo o te kāinga kia ora hei reo motuhake, hei reo kōrero, ka ora te reo. Engari, ki te mate te reo o te kāinga, ko te whāngaromanga te otinga atu o te reo.

Until this happens I believe the language will not advance to any greater extent. Regardless of how much money we spend on the language, and the number of resources we create, if the language is not spoken in the home, it will dissipate and die (ibid, p. 8).

Akene pea ka hūneinei te ao Māori ki ēnei rerenga kōrero, ka amowheke mai pea ētahi ki aku kupu konatunatu i te ngakau. Kai te pai tērā i te mea, ko te oranga o te reo te mea nui. Ko te tūmanako, kai te hē katoa aku whakapae, kai te pai te reo me ona āhuatanga katoa. Engari, e ai ki ngā rangahau kai te tika aku kōrero, kai te mimiti te reo Māori. Ki te kore tātou e patu i tō tātou wairua māikoiko, ka ngaro te reo, ka karangatā ngā marae.

I himata tēnei pepa i te pātai, 'kai hea te mana o te reo?' Ki ahau, kai ngā kaupapa reo, kai ngā tari kawanatanga, kai ngā whare whakaora reo. Kua roa te mana o te reo e noho hāneanea nei ki ēnei wāhi. Kua tae ki te wā ki te whakahoki mai i te mana o te reo ki tōna kāinga, ki te iwi, ki te hapū, ki te whānau, ki te hāpori, ki te kāinga ki te whatumanawa o te Māori. Kai konei te oranga mō tō tātou reo.

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