

Ki Kō

This waiata was originally a tau and is an exemplar for metaphor and utilises the imagery and song for each bird to provide a wider context of meaning. The essence of the message is to search for a place to build a foundation and to create your own paradise. Though you will be challenged to have faith, all will come to fruition.

This came through in the 1940's and it is said that it came through either Te Māreikura or his daughter Moe Ruka. In the 1970's Te Māreikura's son. Pauro Māreikura who was based in Hastings, gifted the waiata to Sonny Abraham and others and with Koro Pauro's permission, they changed the tune and made it into a poi that was made famous by Queen Victoria Māori Girls' School.

**Ki kō, Ki kō, tirohia kei whea te taunga o te Tītīwaitori
Parepare mai rā koe e te Tiwaiwaka i te paepae o te tautara
E nono tītaka te tau (i) te mouri**

**Kataina mai rā e te Kōkako, kōaka, kōaka,
Kia whakataukī te manu Tūī, tuia, tuia, i te pūaotanga
Kia whakapurua ki te remu o te Huia**

**Ka whakarongo ki te tangi a te Kawekaweā
Kawea mai rā i te tōmatomatotanga o te tōmairangi
E rongo koe i te Pīpīwharauoa.
Kūī! Kūī! Whitiwhiti ora!
Kia whakapaenga ki te Manu Tāwhiorangi
Ka puta, ka ora nā ii!**

Over yonder after a long and arduous search is the Tītīwaitori on its perch watching the Tiwaiwaka creating a forcefield on the canopy of the forest for the mouri to be instilled.

However, the Kōkako will scoff and laugh at your deeds but listen to the Tūī encouraging you to unite at the dawning of the day and follow good strong leadership like the Huia.

Listen to the cry of the Kawekaweā
As it brings an abundance of blessings.
And you will hear the Pīpīwharauoa sing:
New life! New life! Let's celebrate life!
Giving thanks for this place, as we offer it up to Manu Tāwhiorangi knowing we will live life to its fullest.