

*(...mai i te whārangi o tua ake)*

matatau o te hunga haramai ki te reo Māori. Arā nē, ko te tino kaupapa o tēnei hui, he whakapāuaua, he whakarākei i te reo kua mārōrō kē noa te hanga. Te mea ai hoki, arā kē ngā hui, ngā whakaakoranga rānei mā te hunga nō nā noa nei i nau mai ai ki te ao kōrero Māori.

Ko tōna whitu tekau nei ngā tāngata i whakaeke mai i te ahiahi o te Rātapu hei pia, hei tauira mā te kāhui whakaako o te Taura Whiri. Ko te mahi tuatahi ka oti nei te āta whakauru mai a te katoa, he wehewehe haere i ngā ākonga kia rima ngā rōpū mahi. Ko ngā rōpū e rua o runga ake, he mea āta whakarōpū i runga anō i te kaha o tō rātou matatau, he āhua mōhio anō nō te Taura Whiri ki ngā mea tino matatau i tapoko mai ki te hui, engari ko ētahi rōpū e toru i meahia kia āhua ōrite te matatau, he kore nō mātou i tino mōhio ko wai o rātou kāore nei i tino pakari te reo, ko wai kē ia ngā mea āhua pai tonu. Heoi anō i pēnei te mahi wāwāhi haere me te āta ki atu anō mena i hē tā mātou whakarōpū i ētahi, mā rātou anō rātou e hari ki rōpū kē.

Ko tētahi anō o ngā mahi i te ahiahi o te rā tuatahi, ko te tohatoha i te pukapuka mahi i noho nei hei whakamaunga atu mā ngā pouako me ngā ākonga i ngā rā mahi e whā o te hui. Tītoretore ana tērā ngā kanohi o ētahi, he tauhou rā nō rātou ki te āhua o te mahi i ēnei kura a te Taura Whiri. I mea mai hoki tētahi “i haramai au mō te whakatā kē te take - tēnā pōhēhē mārika ōku!”

Ko te wā tīmata o ngā mahi ia rā, he rite ki tērā i whāia i Waimārama, arā, ko te hauwhā mai i te whitu i te ata. Mutu kau ana te karakia, haere ana ngā mahi o te kura. Ka pēnei mātou, ki te waiho rawa te kai o te ata kia āhua mārō rā anō te rere a Tama-nui-te-rā, kātahi ka tino reka rawa atu te pākū, te pītiti, te pēkena, te aha, te aha. Ka mutu, ka āhua tau te mauri me te mōhio anō kua oti kē tētahi o ngā whakatāuteute i whakaritea mō taua rā.

E rua atu anō ngā wāhanga mahi e rua hāora nei te roa (me ngā tino paramanawa o te tūhoetanga o te rā ki waenganui), ka hiki te hui ki te whakangā. Heoi anō ka pau tērā hāora atu i te toru ki te whā, kua heuheu anō ngā tāngata ki te mahi mō tētahi rua hāora atu anō. Nekuneku rawa ake te rā, kua ngehe, kua tāhōhō te nuinga o ngā ākonga, i te mea kua tekau mā tahi hāora rātou e noho ana i tā te tauira noho, e kai ana i tā te tauira kai, e rongorongo ana i tō te tauira takaānini.

He hanga mīharo rā ki a au te ū a te hunga ako ki ngā mahi i whakaritea hei whakaoti mā rātou i te kura nei. Te nui hoki o ngā mahi i whakatakotohia ki te pukapuka, me te whakapae anō e kore pea ētahi e paku tirohia, engari e ai ki ngā rongorongo i tutuki, i whakamātauhia rānei te nuinga o ngā mahi e te nuinga o ngā rōpū.

Ko te hunga tino matatau te rōpū āhua hōtoa nei te haere, he kaha nō rātou ki te werowero, ki te tākirikiri i ngā hinengaro o ngā kaiwhakaako, ā, ki te taututetute hoki i waenganui i a rātou anō. Heoi anō koinā hoki tētahi āhua o te ako ka ekea ana ngā taumata o runga ake. Inā rā, ehara hoki i te mea kotahi noa iho te titiro ka taea. I puta hoki i a te Wharehuia tana kōrero mō tēnei mea, mō te ‘rehu’ o te reo, anā ko ērā āhuetanga me uaua kē e ariari ai te kitea atu e te katoa, ka mutu, ko te whakamāori i te tikanga o tērā rehu, kei te āhua tonu o te titiro atu, o ngā āhuetanga rānei o te wā. Nā reira i tika anō te mahi a te rōpū tuarima i rite tonu nei tā rātou tauhutihuti, ka āta wāwāhi anō ai i tō rātou weu i huhuti ai!

Kia huri ake ngā whakaaro ki te hau kāinga. Mea ki te uia mai au e wai rā kia whakaahua i tēnei tikanga ātaahua a te Māori, i te manaaki tangata, ka pēnei ake taku pepeha atu: “Ko Waikato te awa, ko Kirikiriroa te marae, ko Te Kirikohai te wahine, tihē mauri ora!”