

Nō Wai Kē Ia Te Reo Nei? (mai i te whārangi o mua mai)



Nā te ringā o te Toihau

E ai ki te kōrero 1910 rawa ake te tau kua tīmata te heke haere o te nui o te hunga matatau ki te reo Māori, arā, mai i te 100 ōrau ki te 92 ōrau. Nāwai, nāwai i roto i te wā heke rawa atu ana ki te āhua 25

ōrau i te wā i whakahaeretia ai e Tākuta Richard Benton tāna rangahau i te ora, i te mate kē rānei o te reo Māori i ngā tau 1975 – 78. Ko te tūhuratanga a taua rangahautanga rā ko tōna āhua 70 mano nei te hunga matatau ki te reo, ā, ko te nuinga o taua hunga rā kua eke kē ki te karangatanga kaumātua. Kitea ake ana i roto i te rā nei kua kore kē te nuinga o taua hunga rā i konei. Ka noho tērā hei take e ngāhinapōuri ai te ngākau tae atu hoki ki te momo reo i kōrerotia ai e taua hunga rā.

I te whakahaeretanga o te rangahau o te tau 1995, te tau i kīia ai ki Te Tau o te Reo Māori, kitea ana e tērā rangahautanga ko tōna āhua 10 mano noa iho nei te hunga e pērā rawa ana te matatau i ērā kua ngaro atu nei i te tirohanga kanohi. Me kī ko ngā mōrehu ēnei engari i tua atu i a rātou ko tōna āhua 163 mano i kī he mōhio rātou ki te kōrero Māori, ā, ko taua ‘mōhio’ rā ko tērā o te mōhio ki te mihi tae atu ki ērā e tino matatau ana nei. Nā reira kei te kitea e piki ake ana te nui o te hunga kōrero Māori ahakoa kāore i te eke te reo o te katoa ki ōna taumata engari pea hei roto anō i te wā, otirā koirā te wawata!

Nā, i ēnei wā o te whai kia mau tonu te reo, kia kōrerotia anō hoki i ngā wāhi katoa i ngā wā katoa kua tīmata te tāhūhūhū, me te whakatuatētia o te tangata i te āhua o te iwi Māori ki tōna reo.

Kua roa rawa te iwi Māori e uapare ana i take kē noa atu mō te ngaro haere o te reo tē whakaae kē ai nāna anō tōna reo i tuku ki te mate ehara i iwi kē atu. Ahakoa ngā raru i pā ki te ao Māori i te mutunga iho nōna tōna reo engari whakatau kē ana me kōrero i te reo ehara kē i a ia ake, ā, pareā ana tōna anō ki rahaki, e rahaki tonu nei!

Āhea rā anō nei te iwi Māori oho ake ai i tana moe kua roa nei e moe ana? E kore te reo e ora i te moe noa iho a te tangata, e kore te reo Māori e ora ki te waiho tonu te Māori ko te reo Pākehā hei reo matua mōna, e kore hoki te reo Māori e ora ki te kore he kaikōrero. Nā, ehara i te mea me pērā rawa te ihumanea o te tangata e mōhio ai ia e tika katoa ana ngā kōrero o rūnga ake nei mena e whāia ana kia ora tonu te reo Māori haere ake nei, haere ake nei.

Nā, hei konei kua hoki anō ki te urupounamu i whiua i te wā o ngā whiriwhiri me pēhea te āhua hou o Te Taura Whiri, arā, nō wai te reo Māori? Ko au e kī ana kua kore i taea te kī, kua tino kore nei i taea te kī, nō te iwi Māori te reo nā te mea ko te nuinga o te iwi Māori kāore kē i te aro mai ki te reo, nō reira kei noho mai rātou i konā kī mai ai ‘nōku tēnei reo’ kāore nei rātou i te paku aha kia ora ake, kia whānui kē ake rānei te kōrerotia.

I tua atu i te whakaoho noa i te iwi Māori kia tahuri mai ki te reo o ō rātou tīpuna ko te kī atu ki te hunga e kaha nei te whai me te kōrero kia kaua e waiho ō rātou reo kia Pākehā te takoto mai engari ko ngā kupu kia Māori pēnei i ēnei, ‘pea ka haere’, ‘kāore anō kua mutu’, ‘kei a koe he pene’, ‘kāore e taea ki te haere’, ‘rānei he āporo’, ‘nāku te hē’ me ētahi atu anō. Tēnā ko ēnei kia tika ka whai atu ai i ētahi atu anō.

Kāti, nō wai kē ia te reo Māori menā ehara kē i te iwi Māori? Ko au e kī ana ko te reo Māori nō te hunga e whai ana kia mau, arā, te hunga e ako nei, te hunga e tuku nei i ā rātou tamariki ki te kōhanga reo me te kura kaupapa Māori, te hunga e kōrero Māori nei ahakoa huri ki hea, ahakoa kōrero ki a wai. Ki a au nei, koinei anake te hunga e tika ana ki kia whai wāhi mai ki ngā whakatau e pā ana ki te reo me tōna ora, mate rānei. Kāore kē he wāhi ki te hunga aro kore mai.

Ā te wā e tahuri ai te katoa o te iwi Māori ki te reo hei reira rawa ka taea te kī nō te iwi Māori te reo Māori nā te mea hoki i a rātau e kore nei e aro mai, e whakaae kē ana rātou kia mate atu tēnā reo. Me pēhea kē atu hoki te whakamāori i te wairua aro kore i tua atu i tērā?