

No title - a Tarawa Legend - illiterate and difficult - gaps - unreliable translation in parts

The Tree was uprooted, the wind blew so that it fell.

It was torn from my land under the famous ones of the top of the Tree.

The Tree stood at Buariki on Tarawa, at Maungatabu.

They were my people, Kaintikuaba.

All was finished, all were scattered.

It fell at Tetoronga and everything on Tarawa was ended.

It was the end of the land of Beia and Tekai, of Kirataura and Kiratantarawa.

Kirata of Tarawa was the founder of Tarawa,

For the first generation was born of Kirata.

He tried to couple with the wake of Te Kira

But Namoko, the living leg (penis?) sprang up.

He (Kirata) sped away to seize land under the western skies.

There he begot Namoanrabwena, his first-born.

Nei Kimoanea grabbed his penis from beneath his skirt

And conceived by it. The child was born and went far away.

He knew how to vanish for he was a grandson of Taranga

Who, with Auriaria was first to escape from Mone.

He went on to Tarawa from down below

But Teabatiantonga of the red flower ruled there.

So he sailed away. Downwind the Tree sailed,

Driven hither and thither, far away, put to flight.

I saw many of the lands under the sun but yearned for Tarawa.

I refused to people the land of the Tabiteueans.

I sped along on the tails of twin porpoises

Longing to feel the surf of Tarawa

Which sprays up out of the aka of Kirata.

Tabuenana is as steady and firm as the wind.

Send for me Kaintikuaba for we are one people.

Is Nei Eterieri a stranger or from Buariki on Tarawa?

Her line is the line of Tarawa, Nabwebwe and Nabwebwentangaroa.

But their Tree was destroyed, Tarawa fell.

Haul high the sail, raise the Manika over the Kainga of Tangaboa Utibure.

This is the second watch that stands now.

Kaumai and Tebatunga stand watch over the rights of kings.

When all Tarawa recognized Noubwebwe as king

Their task was done, the rights discharged.

Takanuea went off to Buariki to join his ancestors of the Tree

Which stood on Tarawa.

He coupled with Nei Tanomaing and Boiboi was his first offspring.

Then Noubwebwe was born on Tarawa,

Child of Uramai. The canoe was launched, the sail began to fill!

Te bon aua rose over Tarawa at Nukumakin in the line of the semi-gods.

I will tell of the genealogy of Tarawa, of the descent from Noubwebwe.

His wife was Nei Nimanoa, born on the song they sang

When the pillar of Auriaria was raised on high.



Nauamumuri, Nanikain and Tabutoa were born  
To strike Teakatitireu with their spears:  
"You will over-run Maiana, Kuria, Abemama and Nonouti.  
But you will conquer Tabiteua and, like kings,  
Establish yourselves and multiply  
So that the children of Beia and Tekai shall rule.  
Manoku was the ancestral home of Terabaraba.  
Who belonged to the Tree, Teibi,  
Descended from Tebatunga and Manika the tooth  
Whose home was Keatabang n Uea.  
Keep tight your hold on Tabiteua that we may repel them,  
That you may own the reefs where the bait abounds."  
There was sweat in the belly from the beginning on Tabiteuea  
But that part of the umbilical cord  
Torn away from the people of Matang is now returned.  
Auriazia decided that the land of Nakamaru should lie inside the fence.  
He first divided up the land of Tarawa.  
These are my lands: from the end of the island, where Nukai and  
Tebanarauto are;  
Bameri, where my family lives;  
Tabwerake, at Tekokona from Terarikiriki.  
I am directly descended from Kirata Mange  
Who appeared off Tabiteuea to plant the Tree.  
Then he ascended into the Heavens.







uai, <sup>ba kae</sup> bakaei ni Kabururu betian Tarawa <sup>ae</sup> Kaborak e  
 for / long to sprinkle which shoots up  
 i nanon akani Kirata, | ma Tabuenana benene be ue, |  
 in of Kirata and Tabuenana for it is firm |  
 Kanako mai tabarani | kain Tikuaba, | ba Ko aitara iai, |  
 Send for me from the top of Tikuaba | so that we may meet face to face |  
 ma Nei Eterieri tei aba ra Ke tei Buariki i Tarawa, | ana  
 to Nei Eterieri a stranger or from Buariki in Tarawa | her  
 KaKateai Tearikin Tarawa, | Nabwebwe ma Nabwebwentanga-  
 line is the line of Tarawa | Nabwebwe and Nabwebwentanga  
 roa, | be uaruaki aia Kai | e bakabaka Tarawa ma Ka-  
 but their tree is destroyed | Tarawa is fallen | but hoist  
 tea moa te ie, | ateiaki Manika mai nanon ana Kainga  
 high the sail | the Manika <sup>raised</sup> are from the Kainga of  
 Tangaboa Utibure | mea tei te Kauatei, ateiakinna, Kaumai,  
 Tangaboa Utibure | but it is the second watch that stands | Kaumai and  
 ma Tebatunga ba tan teiakina Kanaia Uea, | rimoa i  
 Tebatunga stand watch as guardians of the King's <sup>food</sup> | (formerly in  
 aon Tarawa, Noubwebwe ai kabane Kauea | ma ko na  
 Tarawa, Noubwebwe was made King | but you must  
 tiba Kanaia teamarake | e raranako Takanuea i  
 divide their food | ~~to~~ went off to Takanuea ~~at~~ to  
 Buariki | antin raranakona i an te Kai, | e tei i  
 Buariki | to join his ancestors of the tree | it stood on  
 Tarawa, Kakaraki ma nei Tanomaing <sup>a</sup> na moan  
 Tarawa | Kakaraki <sup>intercourse with</sup> and Nei Tanomaing were his  
 ei naba natu, | Boiboi | e nangiriki Noubwebwe //  
 first offspring | Boiboi | Noubwebwe was born  
 i aon Tarawa, | te nati ni Uramai mai iroiua MataKoka,  
 on Tarawa | child of Uramai from <sup>kae</sup> who launched the canoe  
 be tatao Kabia te ie, | te bon aua, | are tei i etan Tarawa  
 so that perhaps the sail was partly filled | who <sup>kae</sup> stands over Tarawa  
 i Nukumakin | i mwia anti ma aomata | na KaraKina  
 at Nukumakin | after the semi-gods | I will relate  
 te riki are i aon Tarawa, | ba Ko na ongo moan ana  
 the genealogy of Tarawa | so you may hear about the line  
 riki Noubwebwe, | buna Nei Nimanoa Kanoan te tataro  
 of Noubwebwe | his wife was Nei Nimanoa who came from the prayer on



te tabekantabo i aoni bouan Auriaria | mea riki  
the lifting up of the end on <sup>the spirit of</sup> Auriaria | Nauamumuri,

Nauamumuri Nanikain ma Tabutoa | n tau ma wai Tea-  
Nanikain and Tabutoa were born | to strike Teakatitireu with  
Katitireu | ma ko na tiringa Maiana Kuria Abemama  
a spear | You will conquer Maiana, Kuria, Abemama,

Nonouti | mai Tabiteuea | ko kabeia n abama | ko mata-  
Nonouti | from Tabiteuea | You will take the land | like a king |  
uea | Ko tabara i aon Tabiteuea | be a toka ana ngao

You will multiply on Tahiteua | that the brood of Beia and Teikai  
Beia ma (Takai) | Terabaraba rikia te Manoku be tabanin

may rule | Terabaraba whose ancestors lived in Manoku | All were  
an te kai Teibi | iroun Tebatunga ma Manikaa te wi ma  
of the tree Teibi | from Tebatunga and Manikaa the tooth |  
aboaboa rikia Keatabang nuaa, | Ko na Katika Koran

whose ancestral home was Keatabang of the King | Haul on the line of  
Tabiteuea tiana <sup>Karamakoo</sup> ~~Keteunakoo~~ | Ko na abana te ba, te tabo

Tabiteuea Run away | You will own the reef where the  
ma teakina waruwaru, te maono ni birototo ba moan

hair is | the sweat of the belly was the beginning of  
naba te tei, are i aon Tabiteuea, | beatia n nakotetiba

life on Tahiteua | for the share of the <sup>cord</sup> ~~leather~~ (2) which  
te Kauare te Raeaki mai i rouia Imatang, | E moti Au-

was ripped from the people of Matang was gone | Aunaria  
riaria, ba aban <sup>and</sup> Nakamaru te i nanon te o | n na

decided that inside the fence (trap) was the land of Nakamaru | / he  
motika moa Tarawa | ma abau ma Kabani<sup>na</sup> mai

~~will lead first~~ <sup>decided</sup> of Tarawa | and all my land from the end  
tabon te aba a irouia Nukai ma Tebanarauto | ma

of the island | which Nukai and Tebanarauto hold | And  
Bameri au-atu ni Kakai | abau Tabwerake i

Bameri my land ~~at~~ Tabwerake at

Tekokona mai Terarikiriki te moa naba ng ngai

Tekokona from Terarikiriki | from directly descended  
mai irouni Kirata Manglee be tabanin an Tabi-

from Kirata Manglee | from whom sprung

teuea Katea te Kai e birirake e bo, Karawa.

the tree on Tahiteua | He went up to Heaven.