

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 Tectoronga 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 begat Namoanrabwena, his first-born.

Nei Kimoatea 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 Kaina 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.

Takanaea 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 sua 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 Tabiteua  
But that part of the umbilical cord  
Torn away from the people of Matang is now returned.  
Auriaria decided that the land of Nakamaru should lie inside the fence.  
He first divided up the land of Tarewa.  
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 Tabiteua to plant the Tree.  
Then he ascended into the Heavens.

Difficult - illiterate - gaps.

Low

E a Koutabek<sup>e</sup> te kai | e neneaki be raranako<sup>e</sup> kateia ba routan  
The tree has been uprooted | it was pulled <sup>but</sup> <sup>right</sup> it <sup>was</sup> <sup>uprooted</sup> / it stood up as  
abau mai i ana<sup>towering</sup> tenanaiman e kariri i taberan te kai  
rooted in <sup>from</sup> my land / under | the clan ruled from the - Top of the Tree ◊

e tei i Buariki i Tarawa i Maunatabu naia au kai  
It stood at B. on Tarawa at M | There was no place,  
are Kaintikuuba | Ko na aiti baina, | e nea ba Ko na  
Kaintikuuba | You can pull at it | It is strong that you cannot pull it  
Kararanako | e bakara Totoroña ma te ikotanibai e tabanin  
Leave over | it fell <sup>shattered</sup> <sup>on</sup> Totoroña with everything on  
Tarawa | e baraki ba abaia Beia ma Takai ma Kirataura ma  
Tarawa | it was <sup>perfected</sup> the land of Beia and Tekai, Kirataura and  
Kirata Tarawa, | Kirata mai Tarawa | The war also which was on  
Tarawa | ba moah naba te riki mai irouni Kirata | be e ina  
Tarawa | for the first generation came from Kirata | Kirata sought to couple with  
anoaina TeKira | e riki naia Namoko te wae ni man | e nako (Kirata)  
the wake of (his canoe) | Namoko the messenger? strayed after | He stood away  
be abana maeao ni Karawa mea Kariki iai, | ba natina rimoa Na -  
false parent in to the land under the western skies | He began there | The first born of Kirata was  
moanrabwena mai irouni Kirata | be e inaki manen tarana  
Namoorrabwena | for it was his mother's garden of his brother | he went away  
(ni) KaKaiaeinea Nei Kimoaea | e riki naia natina | e raranako, (ba) BAKA  
luck and said Kim it | This child was born | He vanished because he was wanted as a grandson of Tarawa no  
Ko aro mauanaki ba tibun Taraña ba rikiai Mone ma Arauri moa  
because he was wanted as a was first to come  
how to vanish as grandson of T. | who / from Mone with Aurora /  
n naba, | te manganga mai nano ng)ngaia nako Tarawa | me  
He (Taranga?) went to Tarawa from below (Mone) | but  
ariki Teabatiantoga i aona ma uena te renga | e betinako  
Teabatiantoga of the red flower reigned there | He sailed away |||||  
ti moa wiwaeario te Kai rebutofaia | ti na urua n erea ni  
Drownwind the knee sailed and departed | driven hither and thither  
boni Kararanakoa | e Kabakara maungabu | I bo taneaba  
far and wide | the people were defeated | I see many of the lands  
i an te taubki, | I baka ni Kanako Tarawa, | I taua bu-  
under the sun | 1 year for Tarawa | I withheld birth (?) to  
nginakon abai I-Tabiteuea | ae I biribiri i aoni Kaga ba  
Tabiteuea | I feed on two porpoises |

uai, / ba | kae  
 uai, / bakaei ni Kabururu betian Tarawa / ae Kaborak e  
 for I 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 tabaranikain Tikuaba, / ba Ko aitara iai, /  
 Send for me from the top o Tikuaba / so that we may meet face to face /  
 ma Nei Eterieri tei aba ra Ke tei Buariki i Tarawa, / ana  
 Is Nei Eterieri a stranger or from Buonli in Tarawa / her  
 KaKateai Tearikin Tarawa, / Nabwebwe ma Nabwebwentanga-  
 hine is the Tree of Tarawa) Nabwebwe and Nabwebwentangaroa /  
 roa, / be uaruaki aia Kai / e bakabaka Tarawa ma Ka-  
 but their Tree is destroyed / Tarawa is fallen / but hoist  
 tea moa te ie, / ateia Manika mai nanon ana Kainga  
 high the sail / ke Manika are raised from the Kainga o  
 Tangaboa Utibure / mea tei te Kauatei, ateia kinna, Kaumai,  
 Tangaboa Utibure / but it is the second watch that stands / Kaumai and  
 ma Tebatunga ba tan teiakina Kanaia Uea, rimoa i  
 Tebatunga grand watch as guardian of the King / formerly in  
 aon Tarawa, Noubwebwe ai kabane Kauaea / ma ko na  
 Tarawa, Noubwebwe was made King / but you must  
 tiba Kanaia teamarake / e raranako Takanuea i  
 divide their food / he went off to Takanuea at to  
 Buariki / antin raranakona i an te Kai, / e tei i  
 buaniki / to join his ancestors of the Tree / it stood on  
 Tarawa, Kakaraki ma nei Tanomaing / na moan  
 Tarawa / Kakaraki 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>the</sup> boat launched the canoe  
 be tatao Kobia te ie, / te bon aua, / are tei i etan Tarawa  
 so that perhaps the sail was partly filled / whi canoe / which 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 Tarwa, / ba Ko na ongo moan ana  
 the genealogy of Tarawa / so you may hear about the line  
 riki Noubwebwe, / buna Nei Nimanoa Kanoan te tatato  
 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, Keinia, Abemama,  
 Nonouti mai Tabiteuea ko kabeia n abama <sup>nn</sup> 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 Tahitenea | that the brood of Beia and Tekai  
 Beia ma(Takai) | Terabaraba rikia te Manoku be tabanin  
 may rule | Terabaraba whose ancestors live in Manoku | All were  
 an te kai Teibi | iron Tebatunga ma Manikaa te wi ma  
 of the tree Teibi | from Tebatunga and Manikaa the tooth |  
 aboaboa rikia Keatabang nuea, | Ko na Katika Koran  
 whose ancestral home was Keatabang of the King | Hand on the line of

Karamakao  
 Tabiteuea tiana ~~Kateunakoo~~ Ko na abana te ba, te tabo

Tahitenea Run away | You will own the reef where the  
 ma teakina waruwaru, te maono ni biroto 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 Tahitenea | for the share of the <sup>end</sup> leather (2) which  
 te Kauare te Raeaki mai i rouia Imatang, E moti Au-  
 was ripped from the people of Matang was gone | Auriaria  
 riaria, ba aban Nakamaru te i nanon te o <sup>ans</sup> na  
 decided that inside the fence (trap) was the land of Nakamaru | The  
 motika moa Tarawa ma abau ma Kabani <sup>nn</sup> mai  
 will had first <sup>decided</sup> Tarawa | and all my land from the end  
 tabon te aba a irouia Nukai ma Tebanarauto | ma

A 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 whom directly descended  
 mai irouni Kirata Mangee be tabanin an Tabi-  
 from Kirata Mangee | from whom sprung  
 teuea Katea te Kai e birirake e bo, Karawa.

The Tree on Tahitenea | He went up to Heaven.