



Tangata
Pasifika

Kohai au?

Maria Meredith (Tongan, Fijian, Sāmoan) is a Programme Manager, New Start, Tertiary Foundation at Te Whare Wānanga o Tāmaki Makaurau | University of Auckland. Maria contributes an original poem about her heritage.

Kohai au?

Ko e ta'ahine au mei, he 'Otu Motu liki',
Ko 'eku mo'ui, mo hoku loto' ni.
Ke u laukau mo talaki hoku tupu'anga' ni,
'Isa ee mou fanongo mai ki hoku le'o 'ni.

Sino ni, tupu hake 'i Aotearoa Nu'usila 'ni,
'E te lele mai mei Fisi, Ouvea, Ha'amoia mo Tonga Lahi,
Talaatu tokanga mai ke ta talanoa funga 'ni,
Ko au ko e fa'ee, tehina 'ete mālie lahi!

Manatu mu'a hota tupu'anga',
'A e ngaahi founga kuo ta akoa'
Ko e mo'ui ke tauhi 'a e ngaahi vāa',
Ke lelei e ngaahi vaha'angatae 'i māmani katoa'.

Tupu hake ko e sevaniti ke tokoni,
Mo fakatu'amelie ha talanoa fe'ofo'ofa 'ni,
'E ta mo'ui' ke to'a ke fakafuo ha 'atamai tuai,
Ko 'eku kalanga mafana pe, 'isa fanongo mai!

Te'u ako au ke'u ma'u 'a e poto',
He ko poto 'oku anga mokomoko',
Tau ngāue lelei mo fakataha kau faiako,
Kau taki hota ngafa 'ni; ko e koloa mei Langi.

Who am I?

I am Pacific, ta'ahine mei he moana,
My laumālie, my mo'ui,
Inhale and exhale Pacific,
Fanongo mai ki hoku le'o.

Tupu hake 'i Aotearoa Niusila,
Lele mai mei Tonga, Fisi, Ha'amoia, Ouvea,
Tokanga mai ki he talanoa,
Ko au ko e ta'ahine, fa'ee, tehina, mālie!

Manatu'i ho'o tupu'anga',
Remember where you come from!
Our ways of knowing, our ways of being,
Tauhi ke lelei hotau vā 'i he māmani ko 'eni.

Tupu hake to serve, inspire, talanoa,
Our mo'ui is to reshape, rethink, be bold,
To disrupt the vā in this world,
Fanongo mai ki he'eku kalanga mafana!

Te'u ako, ke u 'ilo, ke u ma'u ha'a poto',
Tau ngāue fakataha, ngāue lelei,
I am, we are, teachers, leaders;
Immersed in the koloa of learning.

Poem written by Maria Meredith (June 2018)
Tongan Translation by Deacon Falanisesi Hafoka (September 2020)



Ke ma'u 'e he kakai kotoa pē
'o e fonuā 'a e faingamālie ke
ako pea ke nau a'usia 'a e
koloa 'o e ako lelef.