



Te Pouahaokai

Kātahi te manu whakahirahira, ko Pouahaokai. Ko ia te kaitiaki i te iwi. I ngā wā o te kore kai, e kore ai e taea ngā tamariki te whāngai, kua anga te titiro ki te rangi. Kei reira te manu nui nei, a Pouahaokai, e hoka ana i runga ake o te papa kāinga. Kua karanga iho ia ki tana iwi, “Kaua e māharahara ... ka kitea e au he huarahi e kī anō ai ō koutou pātaka!”

I konā ka hoka ki waho, ki te aumoana – ki te wāhi kei reira a ngāi tohorā mā e kai ana i ngā whārua nui o Tangaroa. Ka tiripou atu a Pouahaokai ki te moana kānapanapa, kia tata atu ai ia ngā ika nunui, ka karanga atu, “Tohorā mā, kei te hemokai te iwi, kua pau katoa ā rātou kai ... mā koutou rātou e āwhina?”

Ngunguru ana te tai, puta ake ana he hiku nui, he karu nui anō e anga ana ki uta. He tohorā kotahi tēnei ka wehe o tōna kāhui, ka tere atu ki te whenua. Whai atu ana ko Pouahaokai, ko ana parirau nui e kapakapa ana, e pakipaki ana i te whakaaro rangatira o te tohorā nei. Ka tata te tohorā ki uta, ko Pouahaokai kei runga tata ake e akiaki ana i a ia. Kotahi atu te tohorā ki te onepū, ka pae mai ki reira. Kātahi te mahi mīharo rawa atu, ko te tino taura o te kore e whakaaro o tētahi ki a ia anō, e whakaaro nui kē ana ki ētahi atu, e mate ai ko ia, e ora ko ētahi atu – ko ngāi tāua, te tangata. Mau ana te wehi.

Kātahi a Pouahaokai ka hoki ki te iwi, ka aroarohaki i runga ake i a rātou, hei tohu kua kitea he oranga tinana mō rātou.