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In the Path of the Ancestresses:  
A Philosophical Exploration of Mana Wahine Maori.

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There is a distinctly female dimension to Maori ethics. Revealed in traditional narratives about the ancestresses, this philosophy emphasises the autonomy and status of Maori women as equal to but different from that of Maori men. In particular, aroha is highlighted rather than utu, noa rather than tapu, and the mana of women is featured as a complementary aspect of a balanced whole.

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**Glossary**

Aroha:	love, sympathy.
Kawa:	formal rules, marae etiquette.
Mana:	authority, standing.
Mauri:	life principle, character.
Mauri ora:	healthy or thriving life force.
Noa:	free from tapu.
Ora:	alive, well.
Tane:	man, male.
Tapu:	sacred, restricted.
Tikanga/tika:	natural, appropriate or correct.
Uha:	female essence.
Utu:	acts of a reciprocal nature e.g. revenge.
Wahine:	woman, female.
Waiata:	song.
Wairua:	spirit, in some aspects akin to a soul.
Whenua:	land.