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**TE TOHU-A-TUU
(THE SIGN OF TUU)**

**A STUDY
OF THE
WARRIOR ARTS
OF
THE MAORI**

A thesis presented in partial fulfillment of the requirements

for the degree

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ABSTRACT

The title “Te Tohu-a-Tuu (The Sign of Tuu)” is the name of a taiaha on-guard position that invokes Tuu, the Maori god of war. It has been chosen to reflect the subject of Maori warfare in the pre-European period. Maori warfare during this period was very much influenced by the cosmological and environmental beliefs of the Maori. These beliefs were mainly articulated through the oral histories of the Maori.

Accounts of pre-European Maori warfare has mainly been written by early European historians who were greatly influenced by the prevailing social customs and intellectual thinking of the time. No linkage was made between the Maori protocols and processes of warfare with the cosmological and environmental beliefs practiced by the Maori. As a result the current understanding of Maori warfare has largely stemmed from written accounts by non-Maori.

This thesis explores Maori warfare through the institution of Tuumatauenga, the ugly faced Maori god of war. It will show the processes and the protocols that the Maori warrior used to prepare the mind and body for war and battle in the pre-European period. This preparation often started in the womb and progressed from early childhood through to initiation, as a youth, into the schools of war. From here the student graduated on to the battle-field as a toa taua or warrior. Through personal prowess and skill at arms, the toa taua gained Ika-a-Whiro or war leadership status. The institution of Tuumatauenga is then linked with other Maori gods to show that Maori warfare and warrior arts were greatly influenced by cosmological and environmental beliefs.

NGA KUPU WHAKATAU

Ko nga kupu e whai ake nei he mihi ki nga mea e awhina mai.

Tuatahi, ka mihi ki nga koroua me nga kuia kua ngaro atu ki te po. E hika ma, moe mai koutou i roto te ringa matua o Tuumatauenga, i runga i te takapau hurihanga hei korowai tangata. Ka mihi ki nga tipuna tane o Te Kooanga Uetuhiao, ara ko Hanara Tangiawha Rire me Arapeta Marukitipua Awatere, ko raua tonu nga tauira whakamutunga o nga wananga o Kokai, o Purapuraare hoki. Ahakoa kua ngaro raua kei te rere tonu nga wai o Hotohoto, o Waitetoki hoki.

Tuarua, ki nga mea o te Whare Wananga o Manawatu. Ki te tumu whakarae o te tari Maori, ki a Meihana Durie ka mihi ana au mo ana whakaaro rangatira. Nana nei i whakato te whakaaro kia mahia, kia whakaotinga i te mahi rangahau nei. Ki nga kaiwhakarite, ko Monty Soutar me Taiarahia Black, tena ra korua mo nga manaakitanga i runga i te kaupapa nei. Ka nui ta korua tohutohu mai ki a au. Mai i te timatanga tae noa ki te mutunga kei te kapakapa mai na nga arero o te tokorua nei.

Tuatoru, ki nga mea e korerohia ki a au nga maramara korero tuu taua. Ki a Paki Harrison, Api Mahuika, Tamati Reedy, Tame Te Maro, Tame Winitana, Mita Mohi, Peta Sharples, Rangi Kereama, Pou Te Mara, John Te Mara, Tamarau Te Mara, Karaitiana Koroheke, Moetahi Jones, Tauhu Mitai-Ngatai, Anaru Totorewa Reedy, New Amsterdam Reedy, Dr Roger Neich o te Whare Taonga o Tamaki, Moana Davies me Moana Parata o te Whare Taonga o Poneke me etahi atu. Ka nui aku mihi ki a ratou.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABSTRACT	ii
NGA KUPU WHAKATAU	iii
TABLE OF CONTENTS	iv
LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS	vi
CHAPTER 1 - INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 BACKGROUND	1
1.2 MISSION STATEMENT	2
1.3 DEFINITIONS	2
1.4 SCOPE AND ORDER OF PRESENTATION	3
1.5 LIMITATIONS AND FREEDOMS	4
1.6 HISTORICAL INTERPRETATION OF MAORI WARFARE	5
CHAPTER 2 - METHODOLOGY	8
2.1 INTENT	8
2.2 THE THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK	8
2.3 THE RESEARCH DESIGN	9
2.4 USE OF ORAL HISTORIES	10
2.5 USE OF MAORI CLOSE-QUARTER FIGHTING METHODOLOGIES	11
2.6 USE OF TERRAIN RECONNAISSANCE AND BATTLE RECONSTRUCTION	12
2.7 USE OF MILITARY DOCTRINE	13
2.8 STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES OF THE THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK	13
2.9 STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES OF THE RESEARCH DESIGN	15
CHAPTER 3 - LITERATURE REVIEW	18
3.1 INTENT	18
3.2 EARLY RECORDINGS OF MAORI WARFARE BY PAKEHA WRITERS	18
3.3 FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS BY PAKEHA WRITERS	20
3.4 SOCIAL SCIENCES PERSPECTIVES	21
3.5 CONTRIBUTIONS BY MAORI SCHOLARS	22
3.6 CRITICAL COMMENT	23

CHAPTER 4-THE COSMOLOGY OF MAORI WARFARE	26
4.1 INTENT	26
4.2 TE KORE AND IO MATUA - THE MAORI GENESIS	26
4.3 TE IRA ATUA - THE MAORI GODS	27
4.4 WAR BETWEEN THE MAORI GODS	27
4.5 TE IRA TANGATA - THE HUMAN FORM	28
4.6 WAR WITHIN MAORI SOCIETY	29
CHAPTER 5 - TE KAWA O TUU (THE PROTOCOLS OF TUU)	31
5.1 INTENT	31
5.2 TUU - THE MAORI GOD OF WAR	31
5.3 TE WHARE TANGATA (THE WOMB).....	32
5.4 AKONGA TAMARIKI (CHILDHOOD TRAINING)	34
5.5 NGA WHARE TU TAUA (SCHOOLS OF WAR)	35
5.6 NGA RAKAU MAORI (MAORI WEAPONRY).....	36
5.7 TE MAU RAKAU (SKILL AT ARMS)	38
5.8 TE MURA O TE AHI (BATTLE EXPERIENCE)	40
5.9 TE IKA A WHIRO (WAR LEADERSHIP).....	46
5.10 NGA WAHINE TOA (FEMALE WARRIORS).....	51
CHAPTER 6 - TE TU TAUA O NGA ATUA (WARRIOR ARTS OF THE GODS).....	57
6.1 INTENT	57
6.2 TE TU TAUA O TANE (WARRIOR ARTS OF TANE)	57
6.3 TE TU TAUA O TANGAROA (WARRIOR ARTS OF TANGAROA).....	61
6.4 TE TU TAUA O TAWHIRIMATEA (WARRIOR ARTS OF TAWHIRIMATEA).....	64
6.5 TE MAKUTU O WHIRO (BLACK ARTS OF WHIRO).....	65
6.6 TE TU TAUA O RONGO (WARRIOR ARTS OF RONGO)	67
CHAPTER 7 - CONCLUSION.....	72
7.1 REVIEW OF OBJECTIVES	72
7.2 CONCLUSIONS IN SUPPORT OF THE RESEARCH QUESTIONS	72
7.3 CONCLUSIONS IN RESPECT OF MISSION STATEMENT	74
7.4 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER STUDY.....	74
APPENDIX ONE.....	75
APPENDIX TWO	84
BIBLIOGRAPHY.....	85

LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS

PHOTO 1. TAITAI MOUNTAIN NEAR RUATORIA. OLD PA SITE 16

PHOTO 2. WAHIRERE FALLS AT HICKS BAY. THE TOHI RITE WAS PERFORMED HERE 33

PHOTO 3. KIRIKIRITATANGI TRAINING GROUND AT WHAREPONGA. 35

PHOTO 4. A CLOSE QUARTER ENGAGEMENT BETWEEN TALAHA AND TAO (SPEAR)..... 44

PHOTO 5. TE MANIAROA. A FAMOUS BATTLEFIELD WHERE NGATI POROU AND TE WHANAU-A-APANUI FOUGHT 48