



Treasure of Polynesia

Culture and Heritage Department

Text and translation by Hiriata Millaud, for the Culture and Heritage Department, after the collection of various extracts of existing paripari (oral tradition or literature).

PARIPARI FENUA NŌ 'ŌPOA/HOTOPU'U REVELATION OF THE LANDS OF 'ŌPOA/HOTOPU'U

Paripari fenua means to show, to uncover. It means to characterise, to unveil or to reveal a place ... To declaim or to chant a *paripari fenua* is to identify the specificities and the boundaries of a terrestrial or maritime space. These words, coming from times immemorial, have enabled the various communities who identified to it to assert, affirm and claim their original, identity-based and cultural existence. In order to complement our application for the Cultural Landscape of Taputapuātea, Rai'ātea, below we present a *paripari fenua* paying tribute to the communities of 'Ōpoa and Hotopu'u.

E Mou'a tei ni'a, 'o TE-A'E-TAPU

A mountain rises high; it's TE-A'E-TAPU (which exalts the sacred)

Tū'ati nā Tara e piti 'e 'o 'OROFĀTIU

Where the two peaks meet, including 'OROFĀTIU (bind/link that gives birth to/generates)

'Ei raro noa iho te Marae VAEĀRA'I

Just below lies *marae* VAEĀRA'I (the zenith of Heavens)

Te papa vauvaura'a nō nā Tao'a e Va'u

The ostentatious foundation of the Eight Presents

E Tahua tei raro, 'o MATA-TI'I / ATA-ITI

A ceremonial Place is situated on the plain; it's MATA-TI'I (watchman who brings closer/mobilises/brings together) / (the Little watching Cloud)

Te TAHUA ROA / I-TAHU-Ā-ROA, Heivāra'a nō 'oe e 'Ōpoa/Hotopu'u

The widespread Ceremonial Place / That heralds omens, where large festive/amusing celebrations are held, for you 'Ōpoa/Hotopu'u

E 'Outu tei tai, 'o MATA-HIRA-I-TE-RA'I

A peninsula juts out into the lagoon; it's MATA-HIRA-I-TE-RA'I (watchman/guard of divinities, with a watchful eye)

Te marae tūra'a nō Hiro-ari'i, ari'i maro 'ura matamua nō Ra'iātea Nui

The sanctuary where Hiro-ari'i reigned, the first chief who wore the red-feathered belt of Great Ra'iātea

'Ei Pū marae 'o TAPU-TAPU-ĀTEA

The heart of the sanctuary is TAPU-TAPU-ĀTEA (sacred rite that sanctifies in the distance)

Vauvaura'a nō te Papa 'o TINIRAU-HUIMATA-Ō-FĒ'ORO

Repository of the sacred choir (Myriads-Community of watchmen-of the expansionist Octopus)

'Ōfa'i tapura'a i nau Upo'o Varu ō te mau Vā Ātea

Stones of consecration of the Eight Heads in the Distant Spaces

E Pape tā 'u !

My Rivers make me proud indeed!

'O VAI-TARA-TŌA / VAI-I-ARA-TŌA i uta ; 'o VAITĪARE i raro 'e 'o RO'ITŌMŌANA i tai

They are inland: the Residence of formidable warriors / The Abode for the Lookout Post of Warriors; It winds, full of scents, through the plain; it soothes and carries to the Ocean, beyond the drop-off

Te Vai Reva Hopuhopura'a nō te Tōa

They are the Ablution Spring Waters of the Warriors

E Fare Arioi tei tai

Houses of Minstrels and Troubadours are scattered along the shore

'O NĀNU'U, 'ei pūhapara'a nō tō NU'U

They are: Quietness for the People, a hospitable home for the Community

'O FARE-'OFE, i rāra'ahia tō pāua i te 'OHE-PARA nō Arata'o

Bamboo house, whose walls are made of mature, plaited Arata'o bamboo ("Watch your mouth!")

'O Fare-Mei'a, 'ei tāra'ira'a nō te mei'a 'āpura nō te FA'A-Ō-HĪVĀ

House of bananas, where the ripe bananas of the Valley of Giants Fishing Spaces are drying up

'O TERĀMĀNINI 'e 'o 'AIRIA nā ra'atira

They are the One who activates the Sources of Energy and the Man managing the Art of nightly visions; they are the governing authorities

E motu tei te a'au, 'o 'TĪHIĀRIRI

An islet is near the reef; it is the quick-tempered red mullet

E ATA-ARA i te 'ati i tua

It is a Watch-Cloud that heralds bad news from afar on the ocean

E Ata fa'a'ite i tō uta ē : « E Ara...! »

It is a Cloud that warns those who remained on the island: “Beware of...!”

Tārava noa mai 'o TE-AVA-MŌ'A

The Pass of Civilizing Expansion is there, revealing itself to me

'Uputa tapu nō 'oe, e 'ŌPOA-I-TE-TAI-RAPA-TI'A

It is your sacred Door, oh 'Ōpoa, when the surface of your waters bristle with paddle blades!

E Mōana tei tua, 'o te MŌANA-Ō-HĪVĀ

An Ocean stretches into the distance; it's the Ocean of the Giants Fishing Spaces

He'ehe'era'a nō te 'ōpape ō te FE'E NUI

On which the waters of the Giants Fishing Spaces move and crawl

Hīvā i te Pō Toa-Uri...

Giants Fishing Spaces of the World of Visible Forces...

Hīvā i te Ao Toa-Tea...

Giants Fishing Spaces of the World of Invisible Forces...