

## He pātere nā Erenora Taratoa

The following well-known pātere was composed by Erenora Taratoa, a famed beauty, in reply to remarks made against her character. When Erenora become attached to a man named Te Marakū, his sister Puhīwahine was not happy, and criticised Erenora. This was the reason Erenora composed this song in reply to Puhīwahine's taunting remarks. Erenora Taratoa belonged to Ngāti Raukawa; her residence was located at Matahiwi, in the Rangtīkei district. This rendition was performed as the relish to the speech of Tuarau Te Tomo, on the occasion of the centennial of the Kīngitanga at Ngāruaqāhine in 1958.

Poia atu taku poi,	Swing afar off my poi,
Wania atu taku poi,	Skim onward my poi,
Ngā pikitanga ki Ōtāiri	Upwards to the heights of Ōtāiri,
Papatairite atu ki Pātea.	And there draw nigh to Pātea.
Ka tiro tiro ki te Onetapu;	And look about at Onetapu;
Ka ranga tonu ki Taupō,	Thence hasten to Taupō,
Ko Te Rohu, ko Te Rerehau.	To Te Rohu and Te Rerehau.
E whae mā! Kia rite mai te whakaaro	O! Ladies! Listen both of you
Ki ōku haere ruahine ki konei.	To my dedicated journey hither.
Nunui tonu mai, he iti taku iti,	You exalted ones, I am a lowly one indeed,
Ehara i muri nei	Not of recent times of course
Nō tua whakarere, nō aku kaumātua	But from time afar of my ancestors.
I whiua ki Heretaunga	Cast off to Heretaunga
Ko Pūrorangi, ko Tarapuhi.	Were Pūrorangi and Tarapuhi.
Ka rawe rā māua ko taku tara	But see how well with my femininity
Ki te hāpai ewe ki ngā whenua	I fly to distant lands
Tāpapa ana i te hiwi ki Horohoro	Then lie prone on the hill at Horohoro.
Kia mātau tonu au ki Tarawera,	Then I shall become acquainted at Tarawera,
Ko Te Hemahema.	With Te Hemahema.
Ka rere tītaha te rere a taku poi,	Sideways does my poi fly,
E oma ana i te tai pōuri ki Rotorua,	Across fearsome places to Rotorua,
Ko Parehokotoru, ko Te Apoapo	Te Parehokotoru, Te Apoapo
Ko Ngātoro.	And Ngātoro.

Kei whea te rā ka hāpainga mai?  
Kei Tauranga, Tūpaea  
Ko te mea e wawatatia nei  
E māua ko taku poi.  
Tīehutia i te wai ki Hauraki,  
Ko Hāpai, ko Tarāia  
Tū tonu mai Tauāiti,  
Pīkautia i te hiwi ki Mahurangi,  
Ko Te Aohau, ko Tiaho,  
Ka taupatupatu te rere o taku poi  
Ngā ia tuku ki Waikato,  
Ko Kīngi Pōtatau, ko Te Paea,  
Ko Mātūaera e tāoro nei  
I te nuku o te whenua!  
He aha rā?  
Hei mana mō Niu Tīreni,  
Pōtaea!

And I shall ask where does the sun rise?  
At Tauranga, the domain of Tūpaea,  
Who comes in day dreams  
To me and my poi.  
Let me now splash in the waters at Hauraki,  
With Hāpai and Tarāia.  
Standing boldly is Tauāiti,  
Trudging up the hill at Mahurangi,  
To Te Aohau and Tiaho,  
My poi swings wildly  
To follow the current of Waikato,  
The home of King Pōtatau and Te Paea,  
Where Mātūaera holds sway  
Over the lands from end to end!  
And for what purpose?  
As the authority for New Zealand,  
I salute him!

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