

## Our Meeting house Maruawai

The meeting house is tāpu, because it is the body of <sup>our</sup> ancestor and it carries the ancestral name and the Takahu or ridge pole is the senior descent line from that ancestor, with all the other lineages coming down below. Our meeting house is called Muriwai who married Tamatea Matangi. She had Te Kawau, Tanewhinaki, Repanga, Rangikurukuru and Moana i Kania or Hine i Kania, who married Tutamuse. The Haka or rafters or descent line come down from the ridge pole and alight on the poupons, carved figures of the descendants of each line, which Maruawai has none, meaning no carvings. Some times a meeting house is refer to as Te Poho o Muriwai when her descendant gather inside. In side the house, the poupon hold up the rafters, the rafters hold up the tāhu, the tāhu holds up the house, and that shows the unity of the people. When you go into a meeting house you should take off your shoes outside at the door, shoes were never worn in the days of our ancestors. They are modern invention and they trample upon the maori of the house. The chief of a manuhiri (distinguished visitor) sleeps under the putā auahi or window. Men and women are allowed to make love in house at night, only when the elders matched a couple, saying here is <sup>my</sup> woman and here is <sup>my</sup> man, they are allowed to come together, within their ancestral house. Elders at Hui would keep awake, telling stories singing & exchanged speeches and had laid down their thoughts, the way is open for all kinds of talks, they are then noa. An old man's walking stick might be taken around & pointed to any one who gets up & sing or do the haka till day break if possible. This is the power of the tipunas, and these things must be passed on, so that our descendant will have a spirit to sustain them. Study your whakapapa learn to trace your descent to your ancestors. Tuakana's and Taina's, so that you can join yourselves together. But do not use these treasures to raise yourselves above others. But if you are chall - <sup>on the spot</sup> shown at your

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on the  
matai, than it is proper you should  
reply. The tipunas say be humble,  
work amongst the people and they learn  
to praise you. That was the wisdom  
of our ancestors, brought from ancient  
houses of learning in Hawaiiki -  
Te Whaeroero, Rangitane, Aturangi,  
Tapeve. mi-a-whaonga.  
Study your descent lines as numerous  
as the hairs on your head. When you have  
gathered them together as a treasure for your  
mind. You may wear the three plumes,  
Te Iho makawerau, Te pare rai Kuta and  
Te Rau Kuta on your head.  
Understand the division of your ancestors  
so you can talk in the gathering of  
the people.

Hold fast to the knowledge of your  
kinship and unite in the brother-  
hood of man.

Written by Remana P. Taia