

Te Toka-namu-a-Mihimarino

This is a story about this name Tokomaru in the area on the East Coast which is called by the English, Tokomaru Bay. It is right that the generations growing up should know these stories.

A large group arrived there in recent times and while they were returning the hospitality the local people had shown them, they said that the reason that place was called Tokomaru was because this canoe Tokomaru had landed there.

But at the time the elders of that place, that is, of that tribe which is called Te Whānau-a-Ruataupare, were alive, Henare Pōtae and others (Hōne Paputene, Peta Maukau, Te Riaki Pēwhairangi, Haua Whakataka, Hone Paerāta, Hirini Waiti, Hārata Pōiwa and others of them) and I heard them disagreeing with this name Tokomaru. They said that the correct name is Toka-namu instead; it is called after a rock named Mihi-marino standing by the sea near Ōngāruru which is called by the English, Ōngāruru Beach. That rock is there as a swarming place and a home for the sandfly. Their appearance is like that of the ant but they fly and have wings. Therefore the reason for this name Toka-namu. Its actual name is Te Tokanamu-a-Mihimarino. Those elders also said they would continue to disagree with the name Tokomaru so that the correct name would be used, that is, it would be corrected, but their wishes have not yet been realised.

Let's say that what these elders say is correct because they should know about the features of their sea, the stories of their rocks, their rivers and their mountains and they have signs, stories, songs and sayings for these places. And their saying is "Te Whānau-a-Ruataupare are the one people".

There is a mountain there called Marotiri, those elders said some of this tribe spread out to Gisborne. This saying is about them, "The seed planted on Marotiri grew up at Manawarua" (this place is at Gisborne). It is because of this that that group are part of this saying, "Gisborne and Whānau-a-Ruataupare are the same tribe".

Although this name Tokomaru which is talked about far and wide is already well-known, according to what Te Whānau-a-Ruataupare wants to be done, these stories are indeed a good thing so that the descendants of this tribe should know their history, that is, the ones who don't know as well as those who want to know these stories.

I spoke with Ngākohu Pera about these stories and this rock. Mihi-marino is known to her, where the sandfly swarms and nests, and she corrected the name of this canoe to Tokomaru-ki-te-taha-tonga. He is an elder descended from all the tribes and he should know too the stories of the canoes. However, let's just leave what Pīrato wrote as - "having been written".

That's enough.

Greetings to us all.

From Hera.