

Uenuku

Ngaati Te Ata Waiohua



***Ka whiti te raa ki tua o Rehua,
Ka ara a Kaiwhare i te rua.***

Scan to listen in
te reo Māori



***As long as the sun shines over the West Coast,
Ngaati Te Ata Waiohua will rise from the depths
of the Manukau Harbour.***

Ko Uenuku hei tino, hei taonga aa-wairua, aa-ahurea, aa-whakapapa, aa-tikanga hoki ki a Ngaati Te Ata Waiohua.

Ko Uenuku hei atua, hei whakatinanatanga hoki o te uenuku, o te kahukura. Ka mutu, ko ia hei tino atua ki a Ngaati Te Ata Waiohua, aa, ka koorero ngaatahi te iwi ki a ia kia rongo ai i ana tohutohu, i ana koorero aarahi i mua i te pakanga, i te whawhai me ngaa haerenga.

I tuu ai te pou tapu, araa, a Uenuku, ki Aawhitu, ki te maunga tapu o Puketapu, ki "Te Kaarangeranga o Ngaati Te Ata Waiohua", araa, ki te paa tawhito, ki te paa nehe o Ngaati Te Ata Waiohua. Ka hono atu te iwi ki a ia e paa ana ki ngaa tikanga, ki ngaa mahi aa-iwi hoki.

Ko Uenuku me Kaiwhare, me te taniwha o te iwi, o Te Maanukanuka o Hoturoa e hono ana aa-wairua ki taa ngaa koorero tuku iho o te iwi. Ka whakapono a Ngaati Te Ata Waiohua, ko te kitenga atu o Uenuku i Te Maanukanuka o Hoturoa, he ariaa, he tohu, he taamaki.

E kiia ana, ko Ngaati Te Ata Waiohua, ko te "Wehenga o Uenuku" o te waka o Tainui. E ai ki ngaa koorero, i te waa i tae mai ai te waka o Tainui ki Aotearoa, i tae mai hoki te wairua o Uenuku i Hawaiki (Raiaatea) i roto i teetahi toka, kaatahi te wairua ka whakawhitia ki te taonga (whakairo) o Te Uenuku. I teenei waa, kei te whare taonga o Te Awamutu e tiakina ana.

Ko te whakaaro nui ia, ko te whakairo o Uenuku naa Ngaati Te Ata Waiohua hei whakapikinga wairua moo te hunga e kite atu raa i a ia. Ko ia hoki hei tohu i ngaa hua pai me te toonuitanga ki a raatou, aa, ko ia tonu e poowhiri ana i te hunga e haere whakateraki ana, me te tuku i ngaa mihi me ngaa whakaaro pai ki a raatou e haere whakatetonga ana.

Uenuku is of immense spiritual, cultural, traditional and customary significance to Ngaati Te Ata Waiohua.

Uenuku is the sacred Atua (deity) and personification of rainbows. Uenuku is regarded as a prominent Atua of Ngaati Te Ata Waiohua, whom the iwi traditionally sought instruction and guidance from prior to war, battles and expeditions.

At Aawhitu Peninsula, on the sacred maunga Puketapu, "Te Kaarangeranga o Ngaati Te Ata Waiohua" ("The Echoing Place of Ngaati Te Ata Waiohua"), one of the old and ancient Ngaati Te Ata Waiohua stronghold paa (fortified settlements) was the sacred statue, Uenuku, which the iwi engaged with for cultural and customary practices.

Uenuku and our tribal taniwha (guardian) of Te Maanukanuka o Hoturoa (the Manukau Harbour) Kaiwhare, are described in our oral traditions as being intrinsically connected. Ngaati Te Ata Waiohua believed that the appearance of Uenuku on Te Maanukanuka o Hoturoa represented an omen, a sign and or an augury.

Ngaati Te Ata Waiohua is also referred to as "the Uenuku Division" of the Tainui waka (canoe). During the arrival of the Tainui waka to Aotearoa, New Zealand, it has been said that the spirit of Uenuku was brought over from Hawaiki (Raiaatea) inside of a stone, and then its spirit was transferred into Te Uenuku taonga (carving), which is held today at Te Awamutu Museum.

It is envisaged that the Ngaati Te Ata Waiohua Uenuku sculpture will lift the spirits of the people who see it. It also represents good fortune and prosperity, and welcomes those travelling northbound past it, while sending good wishes to those travelling south.

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