

UPOKOREHE

COLLATED: Keita Hudson

DATED: 28-3-1990

AS TOLD BY: Tipi ~~Ma~~ Wiremu McCormack.

PAKIWAITARA

As a young lad growing up at Maromahue (Waiotaha) I remember Re Wiata Terupe, He was a Kaumatua at this time. He was very strict and had alot of mana. We were told about Rewiata.

As a young man growing up Rewiata was told never to go out to sea, but he didn't listen and went anyway.

When he got out to sea with his friends they noticed that there were alot of sharks. They appeared to be trying to capsize their boat. It was then that the shark spirit (Wairua) entered him so they came back to shore.

Rewiata was a very thin man, the belief is that he had gills under his arms.

Rangirewha Te Rupe is his makopuna.

Some years later he got sick, he was at Motaeke (Rawi's place just before the marae) where he eventually died.

He was then taken to the marae to lie in state.

From that day on it rained for days.

The river had come up and the water level had risen to about 6ft. deep where Red Bush Cowshed is now.

No one could get in or out of the marae because of the flood waters.

Now believe it or not, the sharks came as far as the marae and in fresh water at that.

All those there at the time said that the sharks had come to take Rewiata away.

Joe one of Rewiata's sons, managed to get to the urupa to dig the grave. He would get so far and then it would cave in, and close up.

They say that's because Rewiata wanted to go with the sharks.

A number of Tahunga had to perform a Karakia (prayer) before it was eventually dug.

Rewiata was taken by sledge to the urupa

Where he was finally laid to rest.