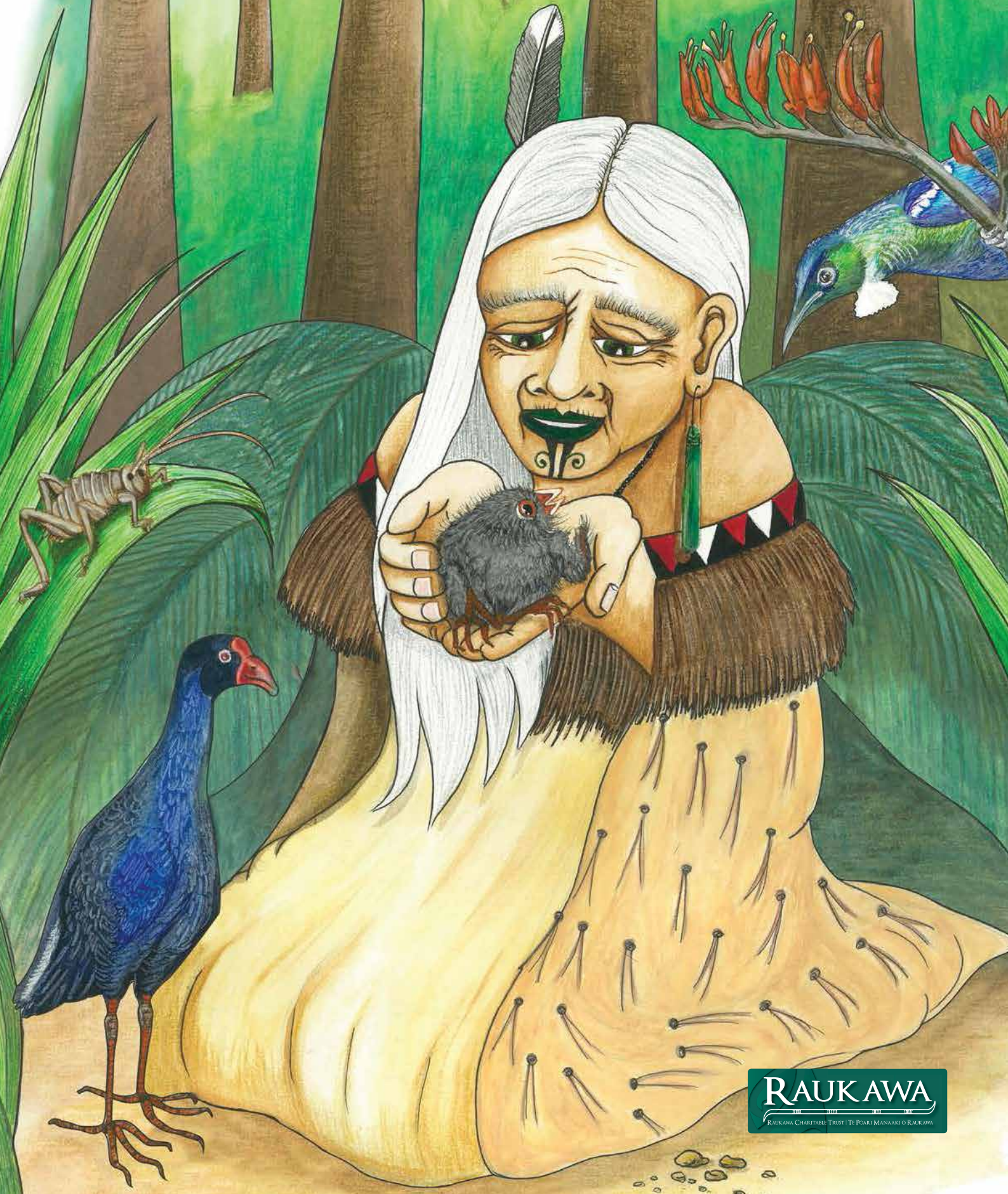
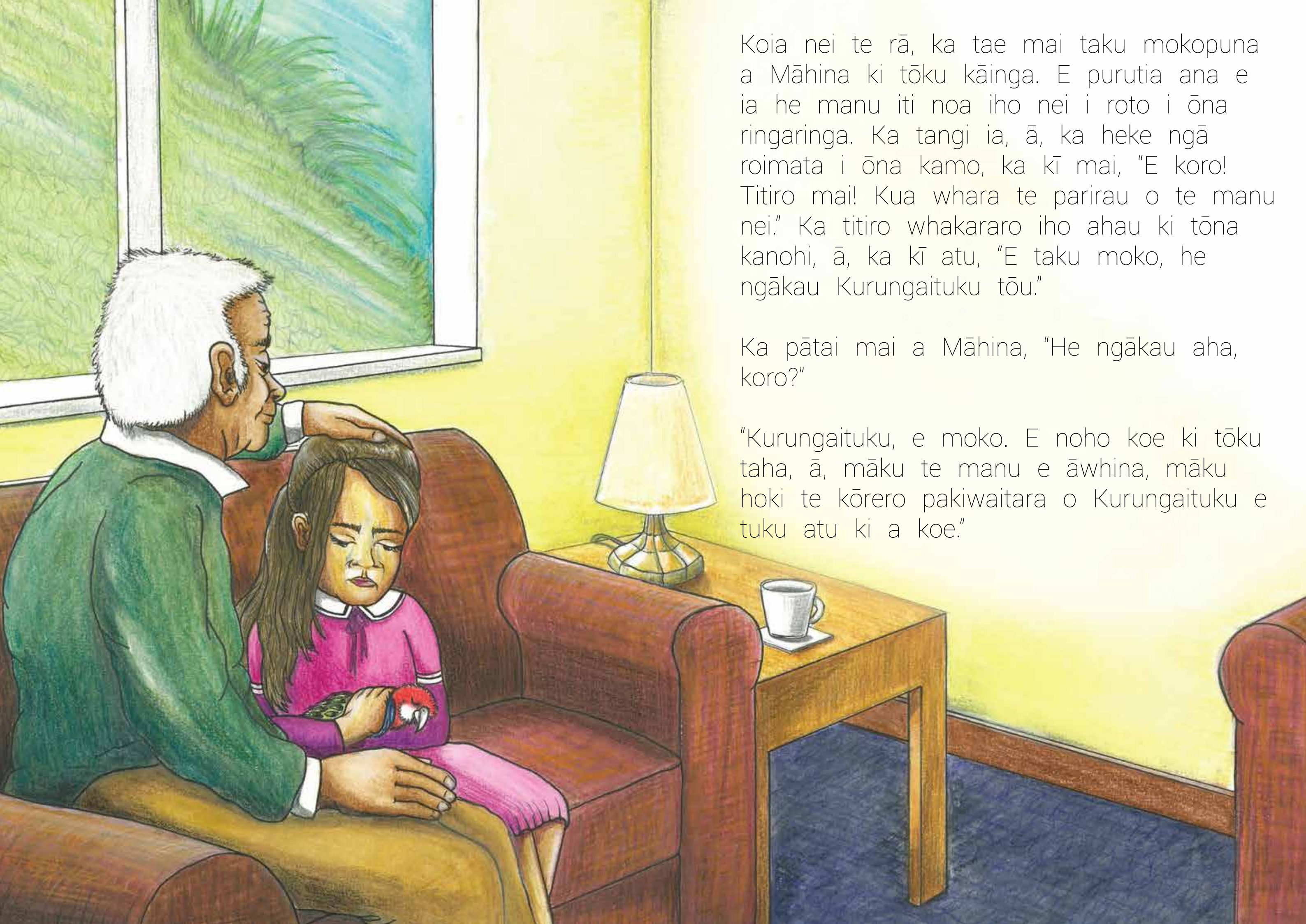


KURUNGAITUKU, TE KAITIAKI O TE NGAHERE





Koia nei te rā, ka tae mai taku mokopuna a Māhina ki tōku kāinga. E purutia ana e ia he manu iti noa iho nei i roto i ōna ringaringa. Ka tangi ia, ā, ka heke ngā roimata i ōna kamo, ka kī mai, “E koro! Titiro mai! Kua whara te parirau o te manu nei.” Ka titiro whakararo iho ahau ki tōna kanohi, ā, ka kī atu, “E taku moko, he ngākau Kurungaituku tōu.”

Ka pātai mai a Māhina, “He ngākau aha, koro?”

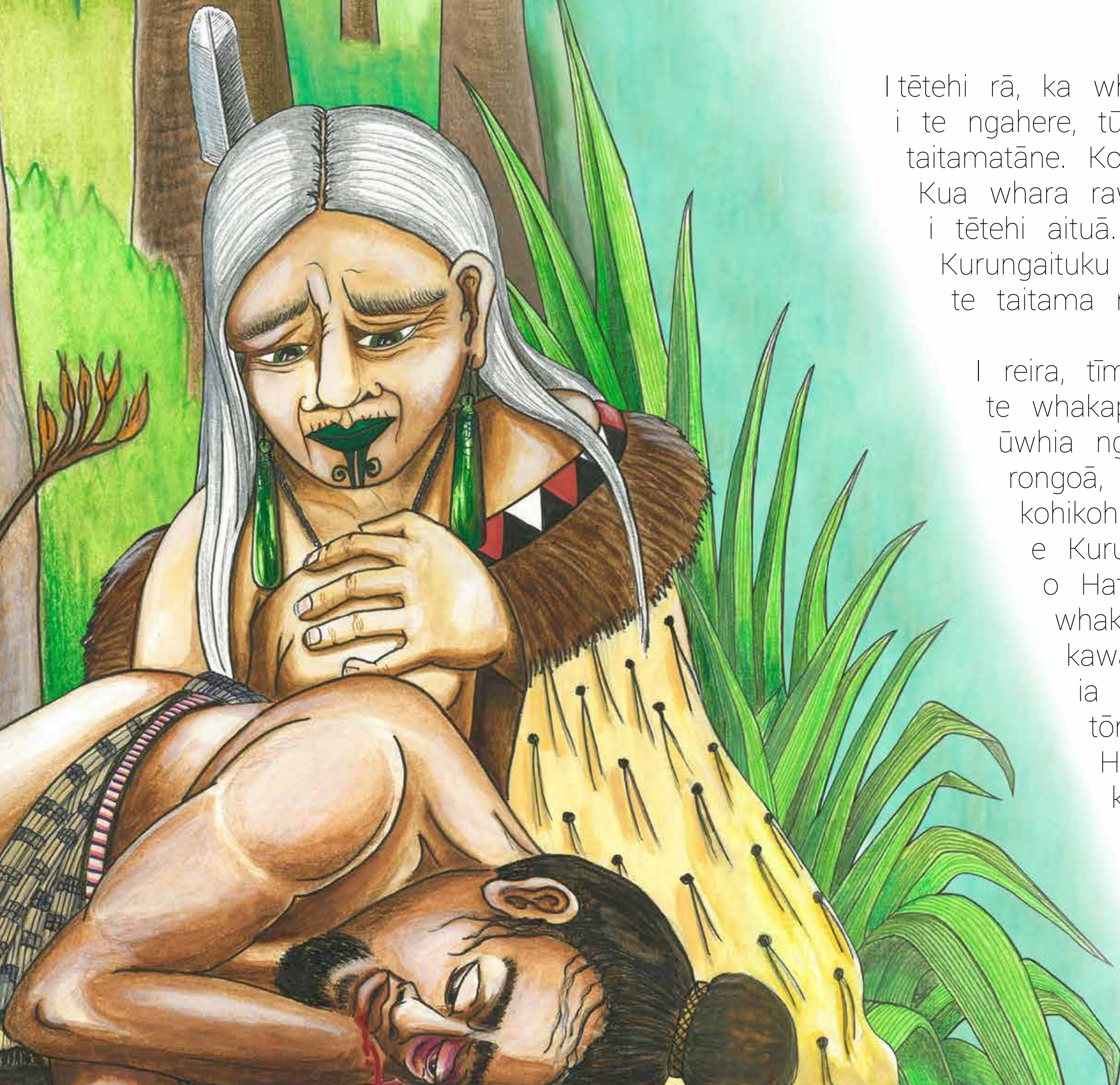
“Kurungaituku, e moko. E noho koe ki tōku taha, ā, māku te manu e āwhina, māku hoki te kōrero pakiwaitara o Kurungaituku e tuku atu ki a koe.”



I te ao o nehe, i mua tonu i te taenga mai o te Pākehā, i ora tētehi tino kuia, ko Kurungaituku tōna ingoa.

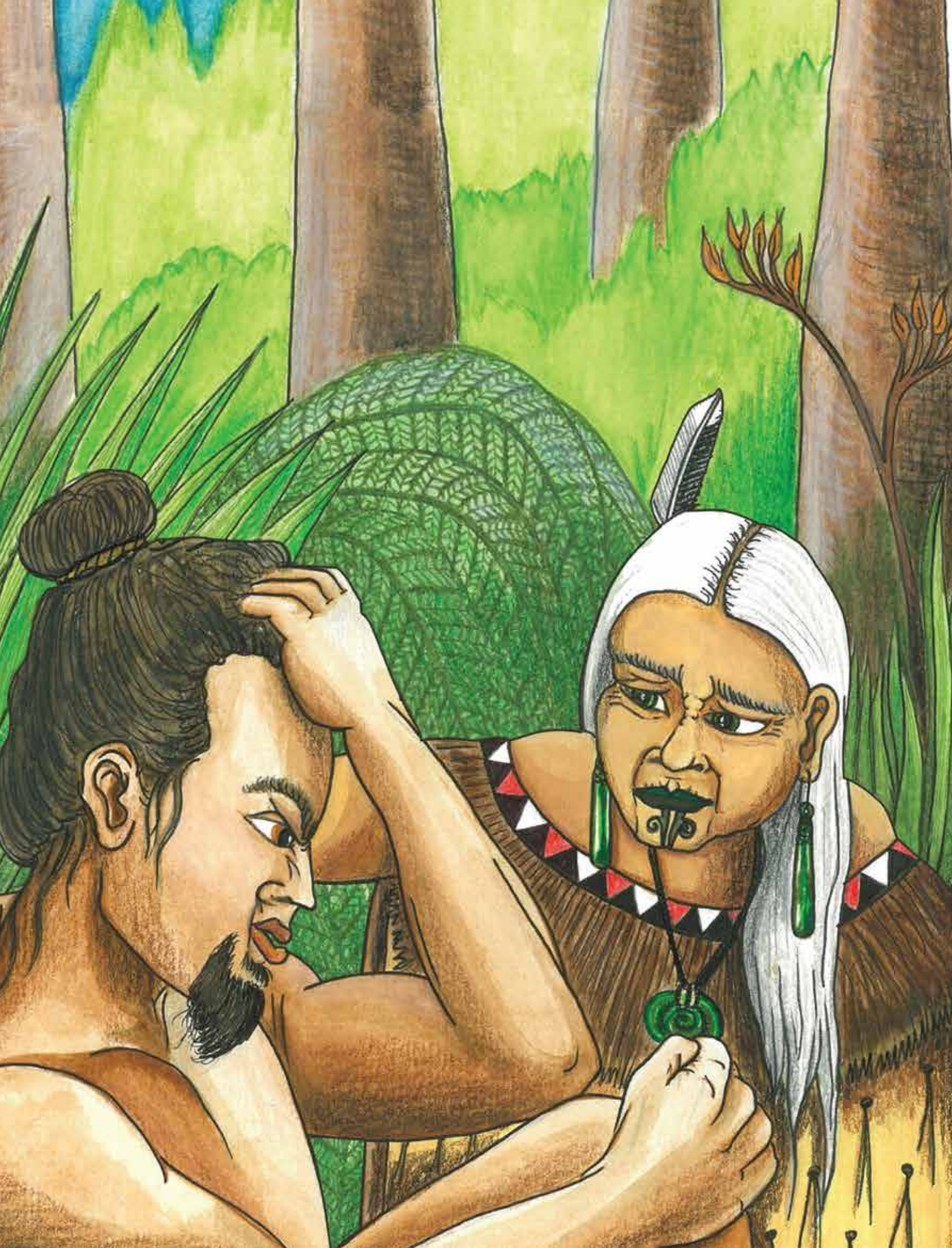
He kuia noho punanga, noho takitahi, noho wehewehe i tōna iwi, nā te mea ko tāna mahi he tiaki ngahere, he tiro tiro haere i te whānuitanga o te Wao-nui-a-Tāne, mai i Ātiamuri ki Tūaropaki i te rohe tonu o Te Pae-o-Raukawa.

He ana nui tōna kāinga, ā, ka kaha manaakitia e ia ngā manu me ngā kararehe o te ngahere. Ka whāngaia, ka whakaorangia ngā kararehe e ia i whara, i aituā, i whakapāngia nei hoki e te māuiui. Ka manaakitia e ia ngā tamariki katoa a Tāne. He ngākau mahaki hoki tō Kurungaituku. E ai kī ngā kōrero, ka taea e Kurungaituku tōna āhua, tōna hanga te tahuri hei manu, ā, ka hurihia anō hoki hei wahine. Nā reira ia i whai whakaaronui ki ngā manu.



I tētehi rā, ka whīkoi haere ia i roto i te ngahere, tūtaki ai ki tētehi taitamatāne. Ko Hatupatu tōna ingoa. Kua whara rawa atu a Hatupatu i tētehi aituā. Nā, ka aro atu a Kurungaituku ki a ia, ā, ka mauria te taitama nei ki tōna ana.

I reira, tīmata ai te whakaora, te whakapai i ōna mamae. I ūwhia ngā wāhi mamae ki te rongoā, nā Kurungaituku anō i kohikohi i te ngahere. I horoia e Kurungaituku ngā mamae o Hatupatu ki te wai, ā, i whakaemihia ngā rau o te kawakawa hei āwhina i a ia ki te whakakaha hoki i tōna tinana. I whāngaia a Hatupatu e Kurungaituku ki te kai o te ngahere, arā, ko ngā huarākau me ngā ngāngara pēnei i te hūhū me te wētā.



I te aranga ake o Hatupatu, ka tīmata tana whakamōhio atu, i ahatia ia. Ka kī, "I patua ahau e ōku tuākana, ā, ka mahue iho ahau i a rātou kia mate noa atu i roto i te ngahere."

Engari, kāore ia i whāki atu ki te kuia, i kai katoa ia i ngā manu o ā rātou pātaka kai.

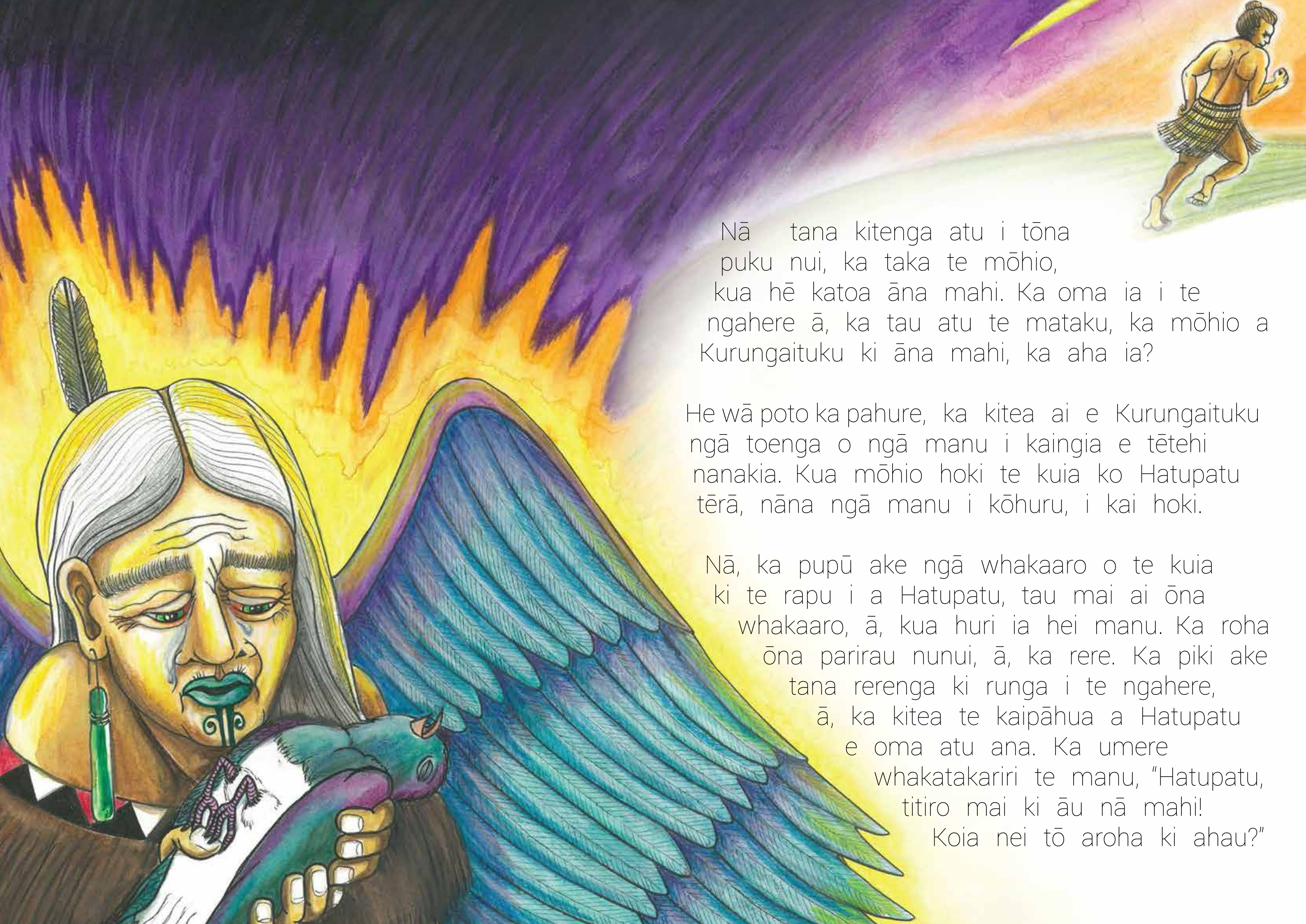
Ka pōuri haere te āhua o Kurungaituku i te rongotanga ake o tērā, ā, ka awhiawhi ia i a Hatupatu ki tōna uma, tīmata ai ia ki te waiata pērā i te manu. Nā te ātaahua o te waiata ka moe a Hatupatu.



Ahakoia te aroha nui o Kurungaituku ki a ia, kotahi noa iho te aronga o Hatupatu i roto i tana moe, arā, ko ngā manu me te reka hoki o te manu hei kai māna. Koia rā, te mea e huna ana i roto i a ia.

Hāunga anō tērā, ka noho tonu a Kurungaituku ki te poipoi i a Hatupatu. Nā wai rā, ka piki ake te oranga o Hatupatu. I a ia e whīkoi haere ana i te ngahere, ka hōhā haere ia ki te kai huarākau me te kai ngāngara. Kua huri kē ōna whakaaro ki ngā manu e waiata ana i runga ake i a ia.

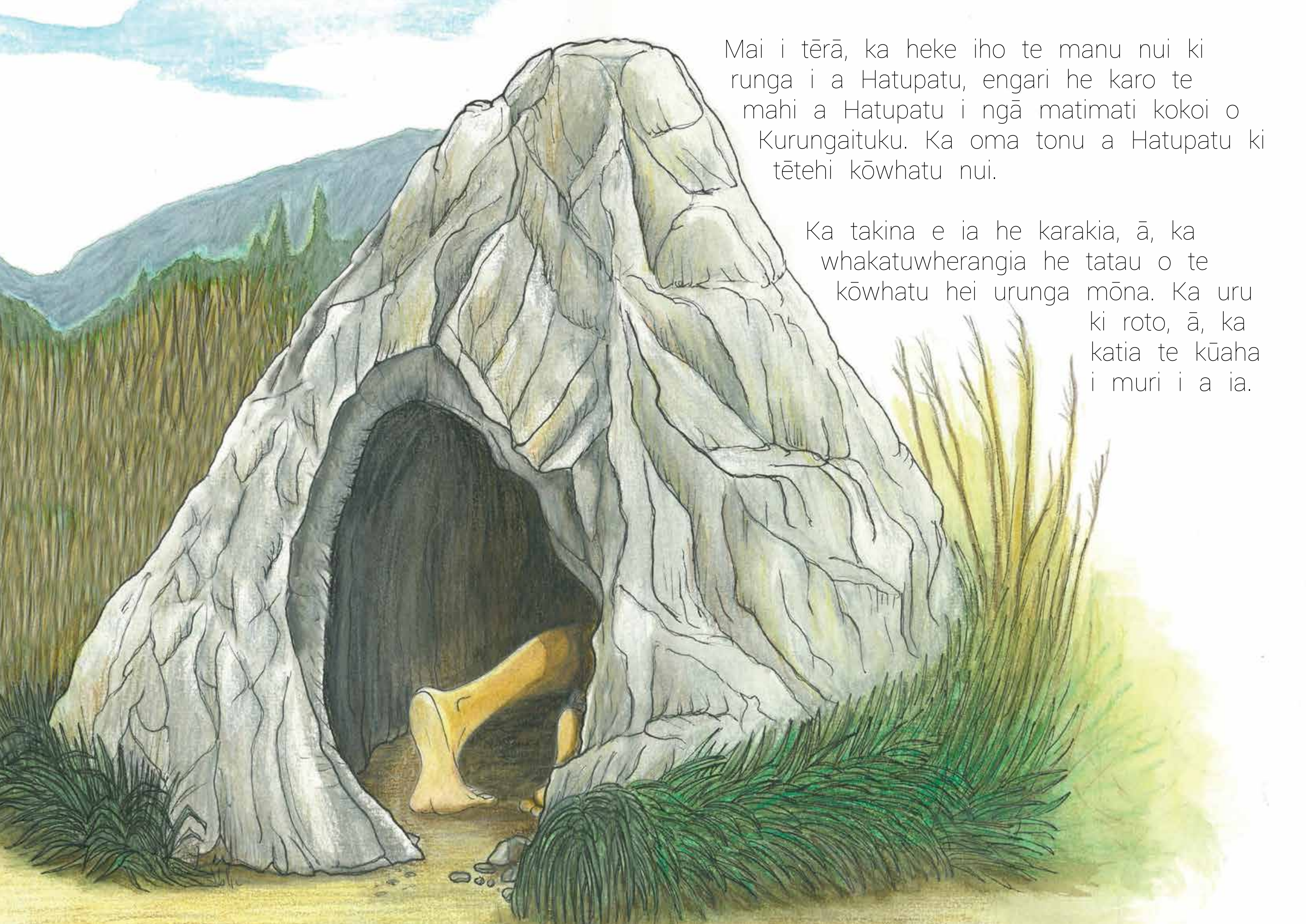
Nā reira, ka hangaia e ia, he tāwhiti hei hopu manu. He teitei te whakairinga o te tāwhiti i te rākau, ā, ka noho, ka whanga hoki ia ki raro. Kāore e roa, ka mau tētehi manu i te tāwhiti, kātahi, ka rua. Ka patua e ia ngā manu, ā, ka kōwhakingia ngā huruhuru, taongia ai te kikokiko, ā, ka hohoro tana whakapaunga kai.



Nā tana kitenga atu i tōna puku nui, ka taka te mōhio, kua hē katoa āna mahi. Ka oma ia i te ngahere ā, ka tau atu te matakū, ka mōhio a Kurungaituku ki āna mahi, ka aha ia?

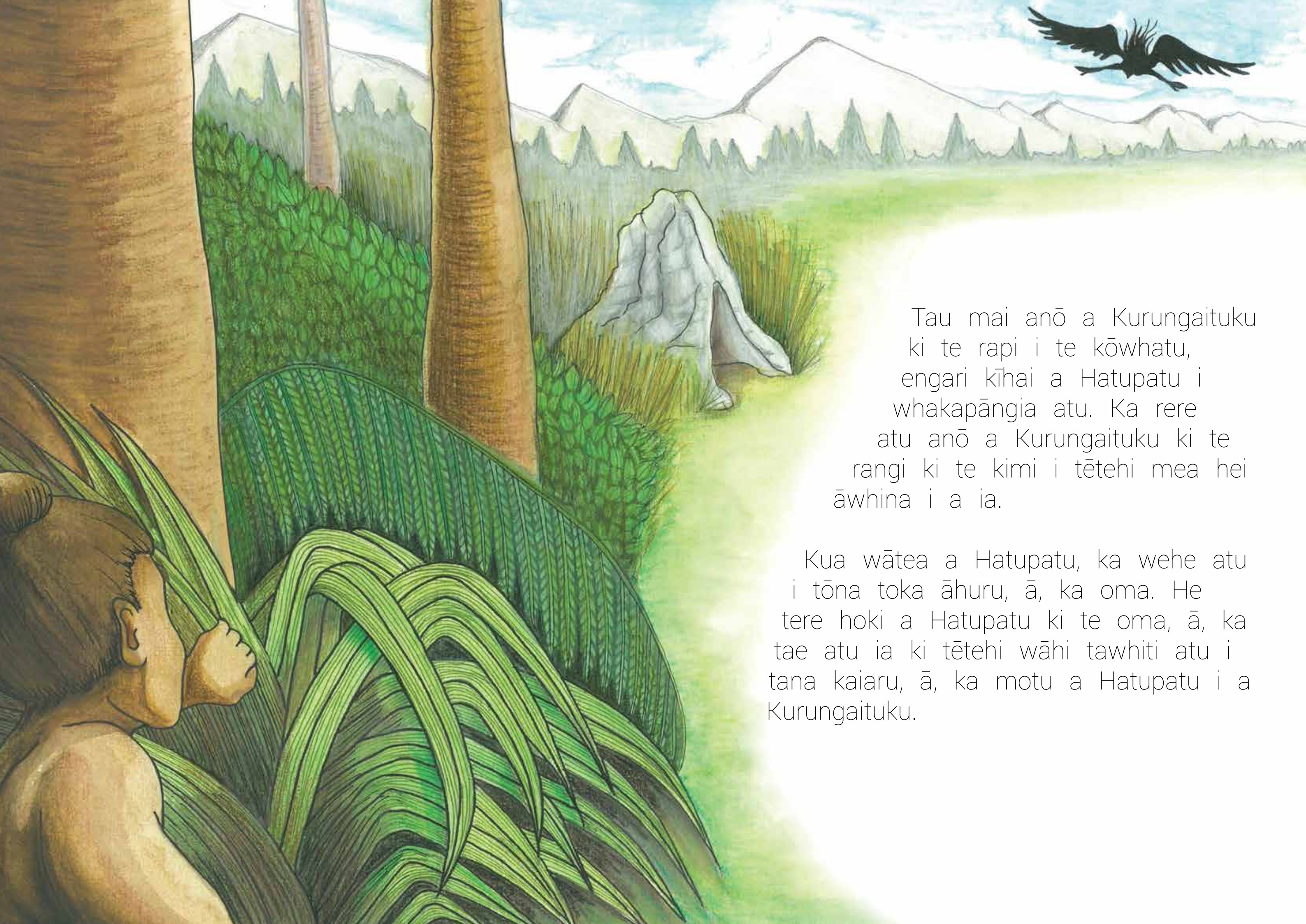
He wā poto ka pahure, ka kitea ai e Kurungaituku ngā toenga o ngā manu i kaingia e tētehi nanakia. Kua mōhio hoki te kuia ko Hatupatu tērā, nāna ngā manu i kōhuru, i kai hoki.

Nā, ka pupū ake ngā whakaaro o te kuia ki te rapu i a Hatupatu, tau mai ai ōna whakaaro, ā, kua huri ia hei manu. Ka roha ōna parirau nunui, ā, ka rere. Ka piki ake tana rerenga ki runga i te ngahere, ā, ka kitea te kaipāhua a Hatupatu e oma atu ana. Ka umere whakatakariri te manu, "Hatupatu, titiro mai ki āu nā mahi! Koia nei tō aroha ki ahau?"



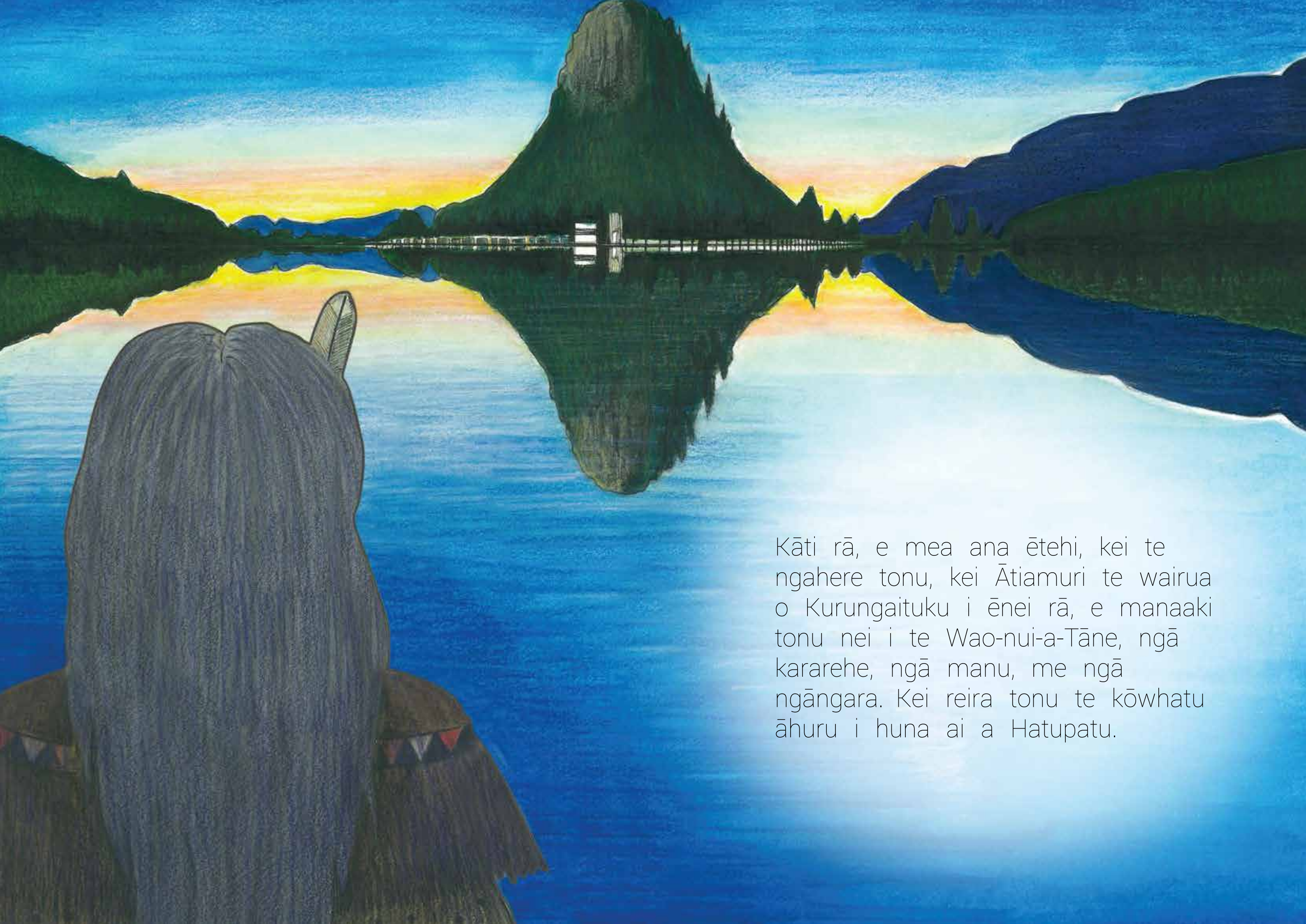
Mai i tērā, ka heke iho te manu nui ki runga i a Hatupatu, engari he karo te mahi a Hatupatu i ngā matimati kokoi o Kurungaituku. Ka oma tonu a Hatupatu ki tētehi kōwhatu nui.

Ka takina e ia he karakia, ā, ka whakatuwherangia he tatau o te kōwhatu hei urunga mōna. Ka uru ki roto, ā, ka katia te kūaha i muri i a ia.



Tau mai anō a Kurungaituku ki te rāpi i te kōwhatu, engari kīhai a Hatupatu i whakapāngia atu. Ka rere atu anō a Kurungaituku ki te rangi ki te kimi i tētehi mea hei āwhina i a ia.

Kua wātea a Hatupatu, ka wehe atu i tōna toka āhuru, ā, ka oma. He tere hoki a Hatupatu ki te oma, ā, ka tae atu ia ki tētehi wāhi tawhiti atu i tana kaiaru, ā, ka motu a Hatupatu i a Kurungaituku.



Kāti rā, e mea ana ētehi, kei te ngahere tonu, kei Ātiamuri te wairua o Kurungaituku i ēnei rā, e manaaki tonu nei i te Wao-nui-a-Tāne, ngā kararehe, ngā manu, me ngā ngāngara. Kei reira tonu te kōwhatu āhuru i huna ai a Hatupatu.



"I ahatia a Hatupatu, e koro?" Ko tā Māhina.

"E moko, he wā anō hei whakakōrero i tēnā pakiwaitara. Heoi, ahakoa i kaikaiwaiūtia a Kurungaituku, he tohutohu, he mea ako tō te kōrero nei. Āwhinatia ngā tāngata rawakore, te hunga pani, me ngā mea e māuiui ana, engari, kia tūpato e kō! Kāore koe e mōhio ana ki ngā mea katoa e huna ana i ō rātou ngākau."

"Taihoa, titiro. Kua ora pai tō manu. Tēnā, tukuna ia kia rere nē!"

"Kia ora koro. E te manu, e rere, e rere atu rā, pērā i a Kurungaituku!"

Nā Huirama Te Hiko rāua ko Nigel Te Hiko ngā kōrero

Nā Hakaraia Designs - Ali Richardson ngā pikitia

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