

Koroneihana Speech 2013

“Te Whirinaki a te Kiingi”

Whakamoemititia te Atua i tona kororia tapu,  
kia hira te whakamoemiti i a ia, kia rite ki te hira o ngāna mahi,  
tāu te hira mai nei  
whakapaingia te ingoa o te Atua i ngā wā katoa.

Maana ka tauwhiro i te turanga o te Kiingi Maori  
te toka wawaahi i ngaa ngaru o te wā e pari mai nei

Ki te hunga mate huhua, kia raatou kua piki i te ara o Tawhaki ki te  
toi o nga rangi, ki te tihi o pae maumahara, tenei te takiri o te ngaakau  
parepare. E kore te aroha e mimiti i ahau.

E nga maunga whakahii, kua eke mai nei ki runga i to tatou marae o  
Turangawaewae

Tena tatou katoa.

It is an honour for me to address you today as we gather here at Turangawaewae to celebrate the seventh anniversary of my father's Koroneihana, but more importantly to celebrate Kiingitanga.

We are all still very much concerned for my father's health and wellbeing, and as a whaanau, we remain strong for him with your support. It is pleasing to note that he is responding well to his treatments.

While absent from his duties, dad is very much attuned to what is happening both here in Waikato, and around the motu.

It has only been two months since my appointment as Te Whirinaki a te Kiingi, and I am overwhelmed with your support, and encouragement.

I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart.

On that momentous day at Turangawaewae House, the day of my appointment, I looked out at you and saw your commitment, your wisdom and your strength.

I honour you, your dignity, your mana, and your determination. These very attributes will form the legacy to be entrusted and nurtured by the next generation: 'My generation'.

*“You are the Kiingitanga.”*

My father wanted this Koroneihana to be about Rangatahi, and over the coming days we will see my father’s passion for Rangatahi, come to fruition, and I encourage you all to participate in the upcoming activities.

I share my father’s passion for Rangatahi, and I have made it my focus to support efforts to raise Maori achievement, and ensure that Rangatahi are empowered to be the creators of their future.

I have taken note of the great success being achieved by Rangatahi Maori from the sports field to the boardroom, and it is these achievements that make me proud to be Maori, and I’m sure you would agree.

I have learnt so much in past weeks and I consistently aim to keep myself well informed about current issues being faced by Maori.

I have felt only a small fraction of the responsibility that my father has carried for the past seven years. But that small weight has been enough for me to understand the collective challenges we face as a people.

One of those challenges is the formidable segregation that resides between today's generation of leaders, and the leaders of tomorrow - our Rangatahi.

Failure to recognise this void could result in many young, talented, and motivated Rangatahi choosing to pursue their hopes and dreams elsewhere.

Together I would hope that we could collectively encourage transparency and Rangatiratanga for Rangatahitanga.

I'm reminded of a quote I once read that said:

*If you want a five-year plan, be in the business of growing potatoes*

*If you want a twenty-five year plan, be in the business of growing pine trees*

*But if you want a life long plan, be in the business of growing leaders.*

We must remember that children are the messages we send into the future, and we must ensure that those messages are loved, cared for and well informed.

Should we fail in ensuring this, the impact would be significant, it will be a great loss and tragedy for Iwi, for Maoridom, for our dreams of Mana Motuhake. For our hopes of social, cultural, political and economic development.

With the absence of inspirational leadership our aspirations to achieve Mana Motuhake are clouded

By forked tongues;

By hatred;

By envy;

By suspicion and greed from the very people, who we hope to inspire us, encourage us, support us and teach us.

It is my plea, a collective plea, an intergenerational plea and the plea of my father.

*“Help us to help ourselves, and Help us to help you”*

So that collectively we can archive our best.

*We cannot do this from the kitchens.*

*We cannot do this from ‘out the back’.*

*We cannot do this in isolation of each other.*

*But we can do this together*

We are encouraged by the words of Kiingi Tawhiao:

*To up hold that which is correct. We have a responsibility to the future generations; we must uphold our Culture and heritage, hold fast to our land and strengthen our people.*

May we seek guidance from Kiingi Pootatau who stated?

*Kotahi te kowhāo o te ngira, e kuhuna ai te miro maa, te miro pango, te miro whero. A muri i a au kia mau ki te ture ki te whakapono me te aroha*

*Hei aha te aha! Hei aha te aha!*

*There is but one eye of the needle through which the red, white and black threads must pass. Hold fast to the law, hold fast to faith, hold fast to love.*

*Forsake all else.*

These words are of significance to Waikato and the tribes of the Kiingitanga.

Writing this speech was not an easy task, but the opportunity to address you all, was my inspiration.

I look forward to our time together here at this Marae, your Turangawaewae.

On behalf of my father, I thank you all for making the time and journey here today. And I look forward to your continued support, not only for me nor my father, but most importantly for the Kaupapa that is Kiingitanga.

Paimaarire.