

## The Magic Pearl

A long time ago, in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, a people settled on four neighbouring islands. This people decided to live peacefully after several inter-island battles. The four islands were: Tupunui, Tematagi, Toaunui and Tekautoa. To seal their alliance, they put together all their knowledge and powers into a magic pearl. This pearl was guarded by the 'aito (warriors) of the Tupunui island. Even though the islands were different, they had equal powers during battles. However it was commonly known that those four islands mastered the art of art and the knowledge of natural elements.

One day, the chief of another island of the Great Pacific Ocean, the ambitious and arrogant Tauratea, decided on stealing the pearl to have its power. He lived on a dark and gloomy island that was called Poruki. Warned by the guards the wise men decided on sending well-informed young boys and girls to get the pearl back so that they could prevent its destruction. Indeed this would cause a natural disaster. The wise elders got together and organized the journey. They sent their envoys to warn everybody on the four islands in order for them to be ready to face any ordeal coming from the sea, the sky or the earth. The traditional canoe was built by a great navigation specialist: Havaikinui. He was assisted by the young Mihiroa.

The large double canoe was supplied with equipment and loaded with food. Mihiroa accompanied by two young warriors had to meet with his companions in arms to fight against Tauratea and his army. The instructions had been given by the wise men of the council. Mihiroa had to travel across the Great Ocean and look for his friends and then sail to Poruki island. Once together they had to fight against the big and maleficent Tauratea, take the pearl back and bring it back to its base in Tepunui.

Our hero had to rely on his knowledge very quickly because Tauratea and his wizard sent seabirds to divert Mihiroa who remembered all of Havaikinui's lessons. He thus managed to avoid the evil scheme and berthed at Toaunui. So he could find the young Parataiti who mastered the art of training marine wildlife and his "taura" (totem) was the shark.

Mihiroa and Parataiti sailed across the Great Ocean. En route to their quest an abyss monster came from nowhere: this was Tauratea's deed again because he was the only one able to turn the animals into terrifying creatures. So that was Parataiti's turn to show his courage and his knowledge. He called his great blue shark so that they could fight against that monster together. The battle was terrible but our young warrior had been trained by the best instructors and he knew the marine world to perfection. He slew the beast which ended at the bottom of the ocean devoured by sharks.

Our young heroes went on travelling and arrived at Tematagi island. There they unexpectedly met a young warrior called Maragai. She had been taught by the greatest astronomers and meteorologists. That young girl had a sceptre that she quickly started using as Tauratea had become aware of the young warriors' progression. He decided on sending the storm. Maragai who saw that phenomenon come upon them, used her scepter and sent the winds and strong swells back to their enemy's island. They berthed at the north of the island which seemed to be a quiet place but as soon as they set foot on it they were attacked by a wild hog. The battle was terrible, they were about to retreat when a young man who had suddenly come from nowhere jumped upon the wild beast, caught it and cut its throat. The monster collapsed in front of them. Our hero introduced himself as Teakau. Now they were all together. Mihiroa told his new friends what had happened and showed them how to act. All of them paid close attention. They shared their plans and knowledge in order to defeat Tauratea and his army. They used all their power and knowledge, nothing could prevent them and they were so powerful that Tauratea and his wizard laid down their weapons.

Our young heroes got the pearl back and brought it back to its ancestral base so that they could live in peace and harmony again. However the jewel that had also undergone all those events and that didn't want them to be repeated used its inner magic and decided to take back the humans' supernatural powers and to vanish into the depths of the ocean, always and forever.

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