KIA MATAARA
an introduction...
Kua ora,

Inga tau o muri mai rā nei ko nga kautukituki mo te mūnga o nga korero Maori, ko taniwhi. Ko nga korero e whai atu nei i roto o tenei pepa i puta mai i te huneingaro o nga kautukituki Maori. Te kau ma rā nga wahanga kei roto kakapi mai nga korero mo te koko-o-te-ora, mo te taha taurua, mo te taha matauranga me nga nga oranga mōri.

For far too many years, the history of this country has been recorded by Pakeha authors. The following account is an attempt to present a Maori viewpoint on the origins of Aotearoa, its development and colonisation.

There will be twelve parts to our presentation, each covering a specific area such as health, spirituality, education, economics, law/love etc.

No rūra, he mihi atu tenei na nga mokai kia koutou ke iwi Maori...

Property of Literacy Aotearoa

PROPERTY OF LITERACY AOTEAROA
Kia-ora! Meet the whanau
There's our kuia, her mokapuna
Ruia and Hera - and as for me...!
I'm a sort of kaitiaki...
I've been around for a long time...

Don't mind me if I butt in once in a while!!
It's Dad, Nan - he's lost his job.

E moko... what's the matter? Why do you look so sad?

Aue, e tama.
Dad says that now the Government is selling off the Forestry, they don't need as many workers.

“Oue, its happening everywhere, boy. Our people are the last ones hired and now... the first ones fired.”
"It's not fair, Nan! Dad is a good worker—he's struggled to get us through school. And Mum... she's had to take on so many dead-end jobs, just to make ends meet..."

We don't live in a ritzy house...

... or own a flash car."
Why is it so hard? I just don't understand...

"No, and you've not meant to. You see, there's been a huge cover-up to hide what has really happened in our country's history..."
In the beginning moko, things were different.

I remember what you and Koro told us.

...there was nothing.

...that in the beginning...

then there was...
And then Ranginui and Papatuanuku were locked together forever... until they couldn't stand the dark, cramped conditions any longer...

...until Tane-mahuta strained with all his might—pushing his father high above...
...then the atua emerged into a world of light, and the fish and birds and animals and trees were born.

...and Tanemahuta made a woman from the clay of Papatuanuku — and her name was Hineahuone.

— and THAT was the beginning of the world!
"That's right, moko. And there was plenty of good kai... birds, fish, pīkopiko..."

Houses weren't flash, but they were warm and dry... and rent-free!!!

Not like now, eh!!

Rent!! C'mon!!
People knew what was right and wrong... We had our own way of doing things - tapu, mana, utu, rāhui, koha ...

We knew what was Tīkanga...

Now we’re told what’s right and wrong...

Look lady! It doesn’t matter if you’re right - I’ve got the LAW on my side!!!
Life was quite exciting then, moko! Our tupuna would explore the land and sea...

...hunt and fish

...trade kai and taonga, and paddle the ocean.”

(What - no school?)

Hey, who says school is the only way to learn?

In those times, the elders, tohunga and tutors would teach fascinating things...

...history, health, whakapapa, oratory.

“Gee Nan, and we learn about the tape Worm and Queen Elizabeth!!”

“Forget them moko - we've got our own heroes!”
But our teacher told us that our people didn't know how to read or write.

"Tell your teacher that by the mid 1840s, more than half the Maori adult population could read and write in Maori. Didn't take long for our lot to catch on. Our people were more literate than the Pakeha!"

So what? You ask your teacher to recite thirty generations of whatakapa or name all the plants in the bush AND their uses!!

To tell you the truth Nan... I think the old way of singing is kinda- um, boring.

"Boring? Not if you know the real we sing about battles, heroes, love. It's the words that are important."

Theres your sister, tama.
Kia-ora Nan! Hi Hema... what are you two up to?

Nans been telling me how clever our tipuna were!

Ha! Can’t have been THAT clever... the Pakeha still managed to rip off all the land we owned!

Kotiro! You forget! How can anyone own the land... do you own your mother?
"Remember... we are born of Papatuanuku. Our brothers and sisters are the rocks, the birds, the trees...

Look around you, children! The land is alive. She breathes and ripples with life!

Papatuanuku provides for all our needs as a whanau - shelter, kai, water. She cares for us as we care for her...

See the mudpools, the earthquakes..."
Nan... do you think that Papatuanuku is Mother to the Pakeha as well?

Well, darling—I'm not too sure. You see, some Pakeha call her Mother Earth. But others cut her up in chunks to buy and sell...
"they blast out her insides so they can mine the mountains...

They destroy her forests—and they probably don't even say karakia."
"Cee Nan, why did they come here and wreck our home?"

Well kids - their world was a bit of a mess!! Wars, pollution, poverty, slavery, religious persecution etc. They came here to 'create a Britain of the South Seas'!!
They looked at our little country and thought — what a paradise!! Just ripe for the picking!!

I mean Maori had some mean battles but they were always for a good reason and we had our own rules.

Also, when you look at it, Maori were only fighting with bits of wood and stone!!

That’s until the Pakeha arrived with the Musket!!
My goodness... we were responsible for some major changes in Aotearoa?

Why did we come here?

It was quite clearcut really! We've got a long and gory history of moving in on the action, or 'discovering new frontiers' (and of course, claiming all the goodies)

I mean to say, that's why we're known as the Great British Empire?

It's all been done before, dears - India, Africa, Australia, Canada - it's all rather old-hat!

If you think the soap operas on TV are full of drama and intrigue, plots and deceit... tune in here for the story of the colonisation of Aotearoa!...

COMING UP NEXT...
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