

## Kōrero a te Akonga Onamata

### Kia ū ki tō Tuakiri; Stay True to Your Identity

Ko te reo Māori me ōna tikanga te tūāpapa o te tūranga o Aroha hei Nēhi Rēhita. Nā tōna ngākaunui ki Te Ao Māori, ka mau tonu ia ki ēnei uarā, ki te whakakotahi katoa i ōna mātauranga ki roto i ana mahi ngaio, tōna whānau, me ngā tūranga huhua e awhitia nei e ia.

I muri iho i te whakapōtaetanga, e whitu tau ki muri, me te tohu Bachelor of Health Sciences Māori Nursing mai i Te Whare Wānanga o Awanuiārangī, i noho pūmau tonu a Aroha ki te tautoko kia piki ake te kounga o te hauora o te Māori. I tēnei wā, ko ia te kaiārahi i te kaupapa Māori whare haumanu ma te nēhi hei ārahi, ki roto o Kawerau.

Ka whakamārama ia, “Ko mātou tiro tiro ai i tō mātou rōpū haumanu me te whakarato rātonga tiaki tūrora, ko te reo me ōna tikanga te tūāpapa. Tāpiri atu ki ēnei ko ngā uiuinga kei roto katoa i te reo Māori mā ngā whānau ka tono mai, te tohatoha i ngā rongoā Māori i roto i te whare haumanu, hapū wānanga e whakauru mai ana i ngā kōrero tuku iho whakawhānau āhuatanga Māori, me te hōtaka Whānau Pēpi e hono anō ana i te whānau ki ō rātou tuakiri ahurea.”

E whakaponu ana a Aroha, he huarahi anō me ngā rongoā Māori hei āwhina ki te whakatutuki i te toiora o te Māori. I te tau 2018, ka ingoatia e rua rāua he toa mō te Tohu National Young Nurse of the Year, e mōhiotia ana he kanohi hiranga ma te rangatahi me te whakaohoho i ngā wawata a ngā nēhi, ara ngā nēhi Māori. E kii ana ia, “I taku whiwhi tana i taku tohu, tino whakahihī kē au he Māori ahau, ana ko aku tohutohu ki ēra o ngā nēhi Māori e wawata ana anei he kōrero – Kia ū ki tō tuakiri (Stay true to your identity),”

He wahine māia, taikaha, wahine Māori, i pakeke mai a Aroha ki waenga i tōna whānau, nā wai anō i pakari ai me te mārama ki tōna ao Māori. Ko te reo Māori tōna reo tuatahi, ana kōrero ai ia mō ngā rerekētanga kua whakamātautia mē tōna reo.

“I tāea e au te whakamātau i tōku reo ki runga i ngā atamira rerekē ana i ngā tauwhāinga. Ko au me tētahi atu i whakahaere i ngā whakataetae kapa haka ā-rohe me ngā whakataetae kapa haka ā-kurarua, ngā Manu kōrero, me ētahi atu kaupapa.”

“He kaihaka anō hoki au ki roto i te whakanaonga Mataatua Tāwharautia me Tame Iti me te New Zealand Symphony Orchestra. He hōnore nui ki te tūtahi me ētahi atu kaihaka tino



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matatau i roto i tēnei whakanaonga tino kaha, i whakakotahitia ai ngā āhuatanga o nehe me ngā āhuatanga ōkawa, kūtoro atu ana ki ngā pakiwaitara o te waka o Mataatua me ōna iwi.

“Tētahi miramira mōkū ko te tuku i tā mātou Whakaaturanga Māori mō te Hauora, i whakapūmautia e tōku māmā e Peta Ruha, ki te rōpū tohunga, mai i ngā peka o te Hauora tiaki tūroro, i roto i te reo Māori. E tautoko ana au i ngā kaupapa mā ngā iwi, hapū hoki i te wāhi ka tāea e au. Mā ēnei wheako e tāea ai e au te tū ki runga i tōku rangatiratanga; he Māori ahau.”

Inā whai anō koi rā a Aroha i tū ai ki te taha o ētahi o ngā tohunga kaihaka o te ao. I toa Te Kapa Haka Taurima-mai-Tawhiti o Te Whānau a Apanui i te Mātaatua Regionals 2024, i tāmau ai he tūranga ki ngā whakataetae ki Te Matatini Nationals 2025.

“Ki te whakareri i āhau mō Te Matatini ā tērā tau, ka haere ahau ki ngā parakitihī, nā tōku ngākaunui ki te haka. Kaore ko te tū noa iho, ki āhau, he huarahi kē e ora tonu ai tō tātou reo me ngā kōrero tawhito mā roto i ngā waiata, me te haka. Kua rima tau au me te Taurima, nō reira e rima ngā kaupapa me te rōpū i pā atu au.

He tirohanga whakamua, kei te whakaaro a Aroha ki te haere hei pia ā tērā tau, ki te whakatutuki i tana wawata hei Mātanga Nēhi ki roto i te hauora tiaki tūroro.