



APOSTLE BISHOP
BRIAN TAMAKI



TIKANGA MĀORI AND GRIEVANCES ARE DESTROYING WHANAU

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Never in modern times has our nation faced such volatility within Maoridom. You would think it couldn't get any worse than the recent outrages of family violence, teen suicides and drug and alcohol addictions -- not to mention the disproportionate prison numbers of Māori men and women -- when along comes the Oranga Tamariki child uplifts and the now highly explosive Ihumātao land conflict.

Māori could whip this up into a “grievance-frenzy,” self-feeding some old activist egos with unfinished agendas and reputations. But something else is bubbling up in all this...

A new generation of grievance seekers who want to take the untiring efforts of a previous generation of iwi leaders and kaumatua and, in a more Liberal environment, push these grievances to non-negotiable levels.

It has been interesting to see the jostling and positioning of Māori academics, activists, leaders and politicians in the Ihumātao issue. All of them adding their thoughts and interpretations – it's all being part of the fascination, the expectations and genuine seeking for understanding. It has gripped our nation.

But I can't help seeing the contradictions, cracks and confusion in all this.

The social and economic condition of Māori is nigh 3rd world level. We are appallingly over-represented in every negative statistic coming out daily in the news, embarrassingly and disgracefully so! And I know all Māori feel this and all genuinely want to change this, but I want to be brutally honest here.

Tikanga Māori is not the answer to the deeper issues plaguing Māori! The grievances in our history is killing our destiny!

I'm a direct descendent of the paramount Chief Kiwi Tamaki of the Te Wai-o-hua Iwi who were the original tribe to settle in the Tāmaki-Makaurau isthmus before Ngāti Whātua arrived. Hence the Tamaki surname I have inherited directly from my tipuna (tīpuna/tūpuna). I say this because I could stand as tall and proud at Ihumātao as anybody!

Yet something insidious is happening on that whenua. Its Māori against Māori. It is! Yet both factions call on a 'white Woman', who happens to be the Prime Minister to solve 100 years of injustice that now ends up with Iwi/Whānau in-fighting!

This is the dysfunction deep within our people. We have more Tikanga and access to Wānanga, Te Reo, Kōhanga Reo and culture than ever in our history. But we, as a people are worse off than ever in history. Never have billions of dollars and Tikanga Māori been poured into a generation of Māori dysfunction, yet all it has gotten is worse!



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Those who often purport to “Go deeper into Tikanga” are genuine in that expression, but don’t adhere to it themselves. For example, I’m the Rangatira Chief, Supreme Leader of Iwi Tapu (Destiny Churches NZ). I don’t have boards, trusts or committees that have Leadership power over Rangatira – that’s not Tikanga Māori because our Tūpuna never had boards, trusts or committees leading them. Chiefs (Te Rangatira) led our tribes and Iwi.

Yet today most Māori leaders have boards, councils, committees and trusts that lead them. We have all seen the power struggles, corruption and in fighting these produce. Even our Māori King can’t be a King! Who has the real Tikanga now? Yet I’m constantly criticised by Māori, young and old, that I’m not Tikanga Māori enough.

When Ihumātao dies down and everyone has to go back and live... what then?

In reality the 'Māori Problem' hasn’t gone away. The mixed communities of people at Ihumātao have deeper challenges than land grievances. That deeper challenge is Whānau wholeness that needs deep healing – spiritual healing – healing of the generational bloodline curses; healing of the broken hearts.

Our destiny and future needs you Māori ‘whole’ not ‘broken’ and in pieces. We’ve been held back too long. We need to break-free from ‘What Was’ so we can get ready for ‘What Is’.

We can all be 'interruptions'. Interruptions in our bloodlines to bring a better day and a better future for our rangatahi and mokopuna. They don’t need to carry the grievances of the previous generations. ManUp and Legacy (for woman and children) have turned around thousands of Māori families lives for the better. It is Tikanga Māori, but just not the Tikanga Māori that’s promoted today (that isn’t working). The better-ism of Tū Tangata O Te Iwi Tāpu.

Nga Mihi Nui.