

Kōkako

This waiata was composed specifically for Brian Flintoff and has layered meanings that are unique to him.

For generic use, this oriori refers to the eyes of a pēpi and the glimpses we get into their nature and characteristics.

The kōkako bird was gifted unique talents and it is said by some that the song of the kōkako is the most beautiful of all the manu in the forest kingdom.

The kōkako is similar in appearance to the revered huia and this reference is associated with the chiefly mana carried by the huia and their feathers.

Energy is needed to power small bodies and, as the child grows, we see the 'fruits' of this energy manifest in their character, personality and unique individual beauty.

Taukapo ana ngā pūkanohi
Whāwhāki ana te hīanga
Nā Tāne te mahi whakapōtae i ngā manu o te ngahere
He pūmanawa tō te kōkako
Āhua rite ki te huia
Kāore e kitea te pūngao, engari ka kitea ngā hua ataahua

The twinkling bright sparkling sheen of the eyes
Reveals and hints at the mischief and playfulness that lies beneath
It was Tāne who crowned all the birds of the forest
Such incredible gifts and talents has the kōkako
Whose character is similar to the esteemed huia
Energy itself cannot be seen, but what can be seen is the beauty of this energy manifesting in the physical world.

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