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Mauri Ora: wisdom from the Maori world **compiled by Peter Alsop & Te Rau Kupenga**

Publisher: potton & burton

RRP \$39.99 hardback

There is a wealth of wisdom in this collection of whakatauki (proverbs). Similar to haiku, whakatauki are short, sharp messages that embody a depth of meaning. The insightful phrases are often metaphors that say much more than a long lecture from an erudite professor.

Whakatauki are wise words that have stood the test of time and the succinct sayings have been passed down through the generations. They still speak volumes to people in today's world and are valuable life lessons.

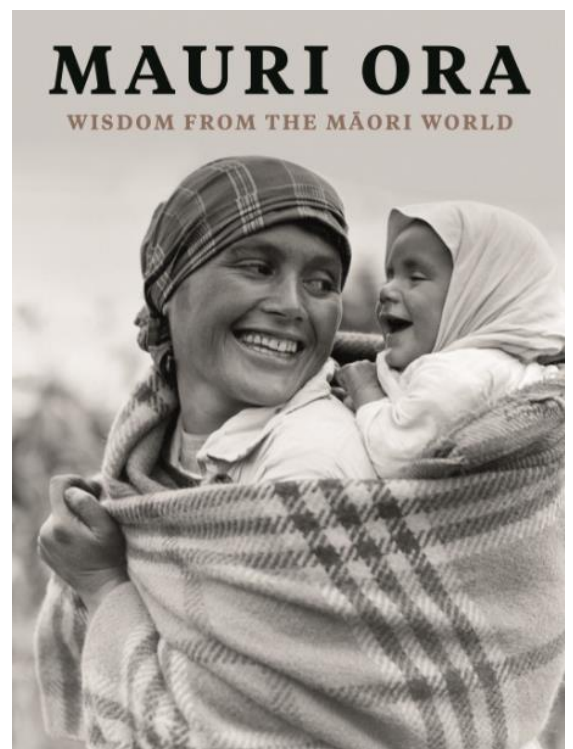
This collection is based on the virtues of wisdom, courage, compassion, integrity, self-mastery, and belief. Such values benefit all people and cultures.

Each whakatauki is illustrated by a black-and-white photograph taken in an earlier time. Most images show people in their everyday environment, at work, at school, at play, at rest, or interacting with others. The photos are well-chosen to enhance the accompanying words.

In the introduction, Te Rau Kupenga remembers asking his mother the meaning of a particular saying. She responded, "What does it mean to you?" Perhaps that's the spirit of this book where individual readers may gain personal insight in the intrinsic message of particular proverbs.

A hardback publication with a slipcover and gilt-edged pages - an apt acknowledgment of the riches enclosed within.

Reviewed by Jean Bennett



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