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# Maori religion and mythology; Illustrated by translations of traditions, karakia, &c., to which are added notes on Maori tenure of land

*Edward Shortland*

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This historic book may have numerous typos and missing text. Purchasers can usually download a free scanned copy of the original book (without typos) from the publisher. Not indexed. Not illustrated. 1882 edition. Excerpt: ... every Maori tribe and family invoked independently each its own tribal and family ancestors, just as was the practice of the Greeks and Latins. CHAPTER II. MAORI COSMOGONY AND MYTHOLOGY. An quoquam genitos nisi Coelo credere fas est Esse homines.--Manilius. The Maori had no tradition of the Creation. The great mysterious Cause of all things existing in the Cosmos was, as he conceived it, the generative Power. Commencing with a primitive state of Darkness, he conceived Po (=Night) as a person capable of begetting a race of beings resembling itself. After a succession of several generations of the race of Po, Te Ata (=Morn) was given birth to. Then followed certain beings existing when Cosmos was without form, and void. Afterwards came Rangi (=Heaven), Papa (=Earth), the Winds, and other Sky-powers, as are recorded in the genealogical traditions preserved to the present time. We have reason to consider the mythological traditions of the Maori as dating from a very antient period. They are held to be very sacred, and not to be repeated except in places set apart as sacred. The Genealogies recorded hereafter are divisible into three distinct epochs :-- i. That comprising the personified Powers of Nature preceding the existence of man, which Powers are regarded by the Maori as their own primitive ancestors, and are invoked in their karakia by all the Maori race; for we find the names of Rangi, Kongo, Tangaroa, &c., mentioned as Atua or Gods of the Maori of the Sandwich Islands and other Islands of the Pacific inhabited by the same race. The common worship of these primitive Atua constituted the National religion of the Maori. 2. In addition to this the Maori had a religious worship peculiar to each tribe and to each family, in forms of...

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