

# THE MAORI CREATION STORY

## STUCK BETWEEN A RANGINUI AND PAPTUANUKU PLACE



The sons held a long debate exploring how they would get out of the dark cramped space they lived in. How might they see the world beyond the confines of their parents' embrace?

## THE PLAN



Tūmatauenga said, "Let's kill our parents". On the other hand, Tāwhirimātea said, "Leave them be" This would simply maintain the status quo. Then, another brother said, "Let's separate our parents". This was a viable option. Tāwhirimātea strongly disagreed. Rongomātane and Haumietiketike did not add anything more to the discussion. Consequently, Tāne, Tangaroa and Tūmatauenga worked things out.

## THE DECISION



The brothers made a decision and tried to separate their parents. Finally, it was Tāne who lay on his back with his legs facing up. With total focus and strength, he pushed and pushed. Ranginui and Papatūānuku didn't want to be separated from each other or their children. In this crucial time of separation (**Te Wehenga** known as The Separation), the children spoke with respect to their parents while helping. Rangi and Papa wept for each other rather than being angry with their children. Now when it rains, it is said to be Ranginui's tears about their separation.

## TIME TO MOVE OUT OF YOUR PARENTS BASEMENT



Now separated, the brothers became Gods, guardians, or atua of particular domains.

## TANE (GOD OF PEACEFUL PURSUITS)



Tāne finally separated his father who rose above. His father grieved for his love Papatūānuku. In response to this, Tāne turned his mother downwards so that she would not see Ranginui's sadness. He then clothed her in trees and plants. He clothed his father in the sweat of his brow to become the stars that adorn the sky.

## TAWHIRIMĀTEA (MĀORI GOD OF WEATHER)



Tāwhirimātea confronted his brothers. He was unhappy about the separation. After a battle broke out the brothers backed down from him. All except Tūmatauenga.

Tāwhirimātea was so angry. He gouged out his eyes and threw them into the sky. These became the stars.

He rose above to live with his father in the sky. Tāwhirimātea waged battle with his brothers from above. Because he has no sight, he feels his way around using his forces of nature.

## RONGOMATANE (GOD OF PEACEFUL PURSUITS) AND HAUMIETIKETIKE (WILD FOOD AND FERN ROOT)



The brothers suffered from the inclement elements of wind, storm, and rain. Fear took hold and Rongomātāne and Haumietiketike took refuge with Papatūānuku. The howling winds bent Tāne and his children.

## TANGAROA (GOD OF SEA LAKES WATERWAYS AND ALL CREATURES WITHIN)



The seas were shaken up and some of the children of Tangaroa were separated. Some stayed with their father in the sky and some moved to land to live in the realm of Tāne.

## RŪAUMOKO (GOD OF EARTHQUAKES AND GEOTHERMAL ACTIVITY)



The youngest of the siblings, Rūaumoko was still within his mother when she was separated from Rangi. His unhappiness shows itself through earthquakes and geological and geothermal activity.

## THE NEVER ENDING BATTLE



Even though it has been many years since feud between the brothers began, it continues to this day as the people of Maori are caught in the middle as storms, winds, rain, waves and earthquakes rock the islands.