

~~undelivered~~Auniana ~~Anty~~

no isleling

~~America of Niui~~

Tabekia

The first beings were anti. Auniana was the son of Tabakea and Nareau was his natural brother. Auniana's companions were Tabuaniki, Mei Tewenei and Teitini Karawa.

1.

In those days, the sky and earth were one and six things only existed — Kima, Kika, Keroa, Riki, Bakawaniku, and Tabakea who was the father of Auniana and Nareau. Kima started to raise the sky and Auniana took it on his shoulders as high as the top of the coconut palms. Tabakea was satisfied with this for the time being but then he got Riki to lift it to its proper place.

Auniana looked around and exclaimed to his father, 'How dark it is! There's no light at all', whereupon Tabakea ordered Bakawaniku to light the earth. Bakawaniku agreed, 'Come here! Take my right eye and polish it well with pumice stone so that it may shine on the earth and in the sky'. That eye became the Sun, his left eye became the Moon and his hairs turned into the stars. When his work was done, Bakawaniku was still remembered as an anti by the Fijian people.

Tova lu

The most revered anti in the Fijian were Tabuaniki, Teitini Karawa, Mei Tewenei, Auniana, and Nakea who was born in the sky and was lord of the souls of the human dead. Nothing more is known about the origins of these anti who were able to forecast the future.

The souls of the dead used to go to Nakea in the sky. If he liked you, you were allowed to stay and were well looked after. If he did not like you, he would pierce your eyes with a pointed stick. Mei Kara used to wait with Nakea

for sinners who came to live in the sky.

2. Our forefathers used to regard the world as
 3. being divided into northern and southern parts;
 and there was frequent warfare between Tarawa
 in the north and Samoa in the south. The
 northerners used to assemble their forces on
 Nonouri and Tabiteuea. Their weapons were long,
 strong spears and the southerners, who had similar
 weapons, gathered their forces in
 Takerau and the Rhuie. The woods used for
 the weapons were rgua and tongo which still
 grow plentifully in Kiritati. Battles were
 fought with throwing spears and by hand-to-hand
 combat.

In a great battle, which lasted several
 days, Aniana, son of Tabakea, led the
 north and Tangarua, the celebrated anti
 and King of Samoa, led the south. The
 north triumphed and the defeated southerners
 were considering what they should do next
 when a man suddenly appeared among them:
 'What are you discussing?' he asked.

Tangarua replied, 'we're thinking about the
 great war in which we were defeated with
 the loss of many men.'

'Come', said the stranger, 'let us prepare to
 fight again with the forces we have left and,
 if they will follow my orders, I will lead
 them.'

'You may take command', Tangarua agreed.
 The battle was fought and the victorious
 southerners asked the stranger who he was
 and where he came from.

'My name is Nareau', he replied, 'Tarawa
 is my home, Tabakea is my father and
 my brother was the leader of the northern
 forces which defeated you. I did not
 let him know of my regard for you
 and I forbid you ever to tell anyone
 about this.'

Nareau then went back to Tarawa and

met Tabakea who asked, 'My son, where have you been?' Nareau looked at him, 'Why, I've been nowhere' he said 'I've not left this place'.

Aunaina, his brother, joined them and spoke:

'Father, we have been defeated by the South. Their forces were led by a man who was very black, short and a skilful fighter. When we engaged, he threw his spear at me and it knocked my helmet from my head and my shield from my hand. I was forced to retreat for fear of my life, so accomplished a spearman was he'.

Aunaina did not guess that his opponent had been Nareau, his brother. But Tabakea, their father, knew.

Notes.

1. Kima, a bi-valvular shell-fish, unidentified.
Kika, a large octopus, the devil octopus.
Ketoa, Actinia (sea anemone)
Riki, the anti usually personified as the eel (rabno) but not so in the dictionaries.
Bakamaniku, giant ray.
Tabakea, personification of the sea-turtle.
2. Tekerau, Tokelau (?)
3. Ngea, Pemphis acidula
Tongo, Mangrove
4. The two words/phrases used in the Gilbertese text are:
Bara n tauri, helmet of spiky skin of the puffer fish (diodon).
Au kibena, lit. a big scoop net which I have read as a kind of string shield.