

and the idea must be that her wairua will travel down the Waikare River, a tributary of the Whakatane River.<sup>4</sup> When she reaches the ocean, Marewa will dive into the water and make her way northwards to Te Rēinga, the Leaping Place. From there she will join her ancestors in Te Pō, the underworld.

In the last stanza, Te Pēhi-o-te-rangi is Elsdon Best, whose usual Maori name was Te Pēhi; he is honoured here by being spoken of as Te Pēhi-o-te-rangi, Best-of-the-sky. Best had been present when Marewa passed away, having arrived just in time to join her relatives in farewelling her. Paki is a woman living at Te Whaiti, almost certainly the person with whom Marewa had been staying.<sup>5</sup> Although the address to her takes the form of a reproach, this passage honours her by acknowledging her relationship with Marewa; and the poet goes on, in any case, to express the traditional idea that when once an atua, or spirit, is intent upon devouring a person, nothing can be done. The words 'e te tau', my love, are addressed to Marewa. Finally, and again traditionally, Tukua-te-rangi accuses Marewa of having thoughtlessly abandoned her relatives. He condemns the education which had indirectly led to his daughter's death,<sup>6</sup> and he speaks once more of his sorrow.

His song is in one way most painful to read, bringing before us the events it describes. Yet because it has the nobility of high art, it transforms the circumstances which produced it. This was, indeed, its purpose. Like other composers of waiata tangi, Tukua-te-rangi made a powerful and beautiful song which confronted death and affirmed the value of life. And because life and death are universal concerns, his song speaks still for all of us.

### *He Waiata Tangi*

*Na Tukua-te-rangi Tutakangāhau mo tana tamāhine, mo Marewa-i-te-rangi; i mate ia i te 13 o ngā rā o Hepetema, 1897. Ko Marewa he tamaiti rangatira tenei no Tamakaimoana, hapū o Tūhoe.*

E hine, Marewa-i-te-rangi e takoto kino nei,  
Kore nei, e hine, ōu tuākana, ōu tāina, i tipu ake ki te ao.  
Tēnā ka riro atu i a Hine-nui-te-pō.  
E hiakai ana ahau te wai roro i a Hātana,  
E hiakai ana ahau te atua ngau kino  
Nāna rawa i tiki mai te whetū me te marama.  
Haere ra, e hine, kauria atu ra te kauanga i Okahu.  
Piki atu, e hine, kia whakaeke atu ko Tarapounamu,  
Tāpuitia atu ko Hine-okaia, kai konā e moe ana.  
Kia tere tāu haere, kei whāia atu tō tira huri kino