



Thomas Kendall A: Nuku Tawiti, a deity in the first state . . . , 1824. ink drawing 24 x 20cm ATL Art Coll. A114/45

of existence to the second: that is, from life before creation into life in this world. The carving represents Nukutawhiti as the tribal 'creator-ancestor', and man as yet undistinguished in form. The entrance to the *pataka* is the entrance, symbolically, into this world. On either side of the doorway stand the guardians. To enter the tapu storehouse, then, represented the passage from one world to the next. To cross the threshold of the storehouse in violation of the tapu would be, as Kendall tried to explain, a 'change of state or death'.¹³