

“SALUTATIONS OF THE TOKELAU ATOLLS”

The song is a salutation of the islands of Tokelau and their chiefs;

Ko Tonuia i Falefitu - Tonuia lives in Falefitu (Atafu atoll)

Nonu ma Alo i Falefa - Nonu and Alo live in Falefa (Nukunonu atoll)

Takoto Kava i Faleiva - Kava lies in Faleiva (Fakaofu atoll)

Ko palega o fenua - It is the beauty of the land

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A NOTE FROM OUR TRANSLATORS;

Tonuia was an ‘Alikī’ (Chief) designated by the King of Fakaofu to look after Atafu when the total population of Atafu was banished from Atafu during their inter atoll wars. They ended up in Sikaiana and Tikopia in the Solomon’s.

*Tonuia had seven children as reflected in the song.
Nonu and Alo were the ‘Alikī’ responsible for looking after Nukunonu.*

*The song notes four houses, but only mentions Nonu and Alo
It does not include Ha Lua and Ha Tuipagai*

Kava (Kavavahefenua) was the King of Fakaofu and as mentioned in the song noted nine houses. The 10th house is not mentioned.

TOKELAU OOOOOO - TOKELAU! X4

*Kaimoana Kaimoana faiva e ifo ki tupua –
Edible resources of the ocean and related methods used to harvest
them are connected with the spirit world.*

*Kaimoana Kaimoana faiva e ifo ki tupua –
Edible resources of the ocean and related methods used to harvest
them are connected with the spirit world.*

*Kana kamata mai ki taua i na mulipapa e –
I wish we could have started from the shallow edge of the reef*

*Ke tau ki te takele moana e –
Until we reach the bottom of the seabed.*

*Kana kamata mai ki taua i na mulipapa e –
I wish we could have started from the shallow edge of the reef
Ke tau ki te takele moana e - Until we reach the bottom of the
seabed.*

A NOTE FROM OUR TRANSLATORS;

NOTE 1: Kaimoana are edible resources of the ocean with the related methods used to harvest them

NOTE 2. A commissioner from Fakaofo was sent by its King to ensure the sacrifices to their God Tui Tokelau arrived on time and to check on the welfare of the people of Nukunonu and Atafu. Upon arriving in Nukunonu, there was a 'Taumanu' (school of Skipjack) and a 'Tautai' from Nukunonu challenged him to fishing competition to see who could catch the most. So he took up the challenge and won by one skipjack. The song is a lamentation by the 'Tautai' from Nukunonu saying that he wish they had started from the edge of the reef.