

Glossary of Māori Proverbs, Sayings and Phrases

Proverbs, Sayings and Phrases	Translations
aroha-ki-te-tangata	respect/a regard for others; empathy
E kore au e ngaro; he kākano i ruia mai i Rangiatea.	I will not be lost; the seed planted in Rangiatea.
E tipu, e rea, mō ngā rā o tō ao; ko to ringaringa ki ngā rākau a te Pākehā hei oranga mō tō tinana; ko tō ngākau ki ngā taonga o ō tīpuna hei tikitiki mō tō māhunga. Ko tō wairua ki tō Atua, nāna nei ngā mea katoa.	Grow tender shoot for the days of your world. Turn your hand to the tools of the Pākehā for the wellbeing of your body. Turn your heart to the treasures of your ancestors as a crown for your head. Give your soul unto God the author of all things.
He aha te mea nui o te ao? He tangata! He tangata! He tangata!	What is the greatest thing on earth? 'Tis man! 'Tis man! 'Tis man!
hei whāngai i te harakeke	to nurture the harakeke/flax
Kai Tahutanga/Kai Tahutaka	advocating the very essence of being Kai Tahu
kanohi ki te kanohi	face to face
kanohi kitea	visit, keep in touch; be seen to be actively involved
Kātahi anō te kapa ka taka!	And then, the penny dropped!
Kaumātua ahi kā	Although born and reared away from his true home or haukāinga; this person placed huge importance on staying connected both physically and culturally to his haukāinga/whānau/marae.
Kaumātua ahi tere	Although not physically connected to his true home or haukāinga but born and bred there; this person has had instilled in him the values and ancestral knowledge from a young age and therefore is very much connected to who he is.
kaua e takahia te mana o te tangata	do not trample the mana of the people
Kia hei taku ate i te tau o tana tiki.	Let my heart be bound with the string of his/her tiki.
kia māhaki	be humble, do not flaunt your knowledge
kia tūpato	be cautious
kōrero kanohi ki te kanohi	speaking face to face
Ko te reo te tāhuhu o tēnei whare	The language is the ridgepole of this house
manaaki ki te tangata	be generous
Māoridom	Māori people/affairs at national or tribal level
Māori (ness)	a hybrid term used by the author in reference to the very high need of support required to assist the wider whānau
Mā te Atua me te wāhi ngaro tātou e tiaki e manaaki	May God and the origins of which all things come from, bless and keep us.
Mā te rongo, ka mōhio; Mā te mōhio, ka mārama; Mā te mārama, ka mātau; Mā te mātau, ka ora.	Through resonance comes cognisance; through cognisance comes understanding; through understanding comes knowledge; through knowledge comes life and well-being.
māu anō e rapu he oranga	your livelihood is in your own hands
Nāu te whatu Māori	through the eye of the Māori
Ngāpuhitanga	having a physical, spiritual connectedness to Ngāpuhi customs and practices; tribes/tribal areas

take-utu-ea	purpose-benefits-recompense (damage) precedent and Māori principles
Taku tiki pounamu ko te huanga ake; taku kōkō tangiwai ka motu i te taringa; taku rake tī hauora nāu i tāmoē.	My ornamental greenstone pendant; alas, we but saw thee as in a dream; my treasured eardrop of translucent jade, cruelly torn from off my ear; my grove of shady sheltering trees, death hath ruthlessly trampled underfoot.
te aitanga a Tiki	aristocracy
Te Amorangi Mātauranga Matua	Tertiary Education Commission
te iwi Māori	the Māori people
Te Kauhua	Phase Two of Te Kotahitanga Project
Te Kawa a Māui	School of Māori Studies Victoria University of Wellington
Te Kete Ipurangi (TKI)	Online Learning Centre
Te Kotahitanga Project	a professional development programme designed for teachers of Māori students, that emphasises the need to incorporate student based learning and small group activities into their classrooms
...tēnei tō tātou iwi, he iwi kaha ki te tū marae. Heoi anō kei konei e noho ana, engari e kore e putaputa mai, e kore. Koirā te āhua o tō tāua iwi; kia tika rā anō te kaupapa, kātahi anō ka puta mai; kātahi anō ka kite ētahi.	...these are our people, they are truly magnificent orators. Even though they live locally, they do not grace us with their presence, not at all. It is so typical of our people; they will only appear after the work is done; only then will they come forward to see for themselves.
te tai tokerau	northern region of Aotearoa
Te Tumu	A foundation for the dissemination of Indigenous knowledge to students who come from all over the world to access this knowledge.
te tumu herenga waka	a mooring post for tying up canoes
Te Whakahauora i ngā reo taketake	Indigenous language revitalisation
te whānau o te harakeke	the family of the flax
tītiro, whakarongo, kōrero	look, listen, then speak
toi iho Māori made™	(trademark) used to promote and sell authentic, quality arts and crafts, and to authenticate exhibitions and performances of Māori arts by Māori artists
tuakana/teina	peer mentoring/tutoring
whai oranga mō tō whānau'	provide for your family
Whāia te māramatanga	Seek enlightenment
Whakatupuranga Rua Mano	Generation 2000
whānau(ness)	a hybrid term; signifying pride in Māori/tribal identity, kinship, whānau
whānau(ngatanga)	a hybrid term; placing importance on kinship, whānau awareness/whānau support systems