

Background

This is an ancient karakia that was used when you were out at sea and a storm was approaching. However, the storm is a metaphor for any life-threatening force. It is now widely used at the start of the day or at the start of a meeting.

Whakataka te hau ki te uru,
Whakataka te hau ki te tonga.

Kia mākinakina ki uta,
Kia mātaratara ki tai.

E hī ake ana te atākura he tio,
he huka, he hauhunga.

Haumi e! Hui e! Tāiki e!

Translation

Cease the winds from the west,
Cease the winds from the south,
Let the breeze blow over the land,
Let the breeze blow over the ocean,
Let the red-tipped dawn come with a sharpened air,
A touch of frost, a promise of a glorious day.