

THE LAND OF RAHO

A land of Raho and Tokaniua
Fouma, Tu'rotuma and Riamkau
Sunbathing in a pacific serenity
Sedate in a council of the years
Instituted in the ancestral wisdom
Of a *tafi* system of island chiefs
Specifically a Rotuman creation
Endowed with *mana* of the Gods,
Indigenous and ingenious

Rotuman!
Of Tagroa and the tapu
A distinctive identity
Rotuman!

A divine authority in action
In cohesion and community love
Distinctively Rotuman, of respect
For chiefs in blessed social control
Of the *pu'qki*, and life or death!
And godly blessings for plenitude
In harvests of *papula* and *papai*
Of the *a pea* and *uhi* and *uhilei*
Of all the fruits in the forests
And colourful fishes in the sea,
Of crabs and lobsters and *avi'i*
The *lumi fenau* and *lumi mi'a*
Of the *kikesi*, *afoli* and the *ro*

All of these in the chiefly blessings
Of *mana* in the life of the Rotuman
Through ages of wisdom and respect
To the Gods, and power in service
In humble isolated community life.
Indelibly in the Rotuman psyche.

Rotuman
Of Tagroa and the tapu
A distinctive identity
Rotuman!

Problems for sure! but chiefs settle,
Through a special creation, the *tapu!*
A special relation in pan-Rotumanism
Questioning, listening and flexible
Accountable and ages-responsible.
A Rotuman sedation from *tafi* to now,
Not British, not Fijian, nor any other,
Definitely not of silly pride in power!
This ancestral mana of our Rotuma
And loving guardian ancient spirits,
Not for dubious meddling 'democrats'!

Deference, reference, and conference
All Rotuman community attributes,
Valuable ancient lasting monuments.
No fools of dictatorial administrators
No silly blind overseers in the council.
Reconstitute, reconcile - but reinstate!

Rotuman!
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Rotuman!