

SYNOPSIS OF BOOK A

The text is the work of Teuea and Naniki of Tarawa and Tabuia (Tabuia) of Atafiang and was written by Tabuia. It contains an introduction and five parts — (1) the Bomatemaki (the Creation) (2) some genealogies (3) the origin of the northern kings (4) life after death and (5) some omens. Parts (1)–(3) constitute the basis of pp 2–32 of Aia Karaki nikawai i-Tungaru (Pateman)

1. Nareau and the Bomatemaki. Base text for Pateman 1942: 2–12. Gives loti locations of anti 36–38: #3 omitted in Pateman 10.
 2. Division of Tungaru. Text includes Baraba in Tungaru Meang #4 omitted in Pateman 12.
 3. Text states that Auriana and Tahariki were 'white' and that Nabawe was 'black' and 'fizzy' c.f. Pateman 16.
 4. Text does not give modern 'equivalents' of lands in Pateman 12–13.
 5. Text describing partial destruction of Tarawa by a volcano and scattering of inhabitants 56 omitted in Pateman.
 6. Genealogies. First people in Tarawa. Text 58–78 contains lineages of:
 - (a) Tebau of Tarawa via Beiamaketaki; and
 - (b) Arikintarawa, his brother, via Obaia-ke-Buraerae whose line established in Tahitenua.
 - (c) Riki which is virtually identical with (b) and includes a version of the Obaia story.
 - (d) Mei lineage via Korouangulungutu and Te Iake; and via Mei Teanti. Includes versions of stories of Mei Nimanoa and migrations to Nikunau and Tarawa c.f. Pateman 22–3; Nauwewewe c.f. Pateman 24–5 and § below; and of their children and Mei Teuea of Beru (c.f. Pateman 25–8).
1. Aia Karaki nikawai i-Tungaru. Myths and legends of the Gilbertese People. Edited by May Pateman. London, Heinemann Press, Hongkong, Bern. 1942

Pakeman omits genealogy of the northern kings.

(a) Ngkongka or Lalitewa (anti-ma-asmeta)

7. Text 79-92 contains version of story of King Kewa of Tarawa substantially reproduced in Pakeman 17-21.

8. Text 93-110. A version of the birth, life and deeds of Beiamarekai reproduced in Pakeman 21-9. Includes the inter-locking stories of Kei Nimaroa and Naulwelve and their children which are substantially used in Pakeman 25-8 supplemented from other sources.

9. Tanentoa ni Naao adopted son of Beiamarekai, text 111-18 substantially reproduced in Pakeman 29-30, on Bora, Lalitewa, Nonouti and Tarawa. Establishment of his line on Tarawa, Ataiang and Narakai through his daughter Kei Rakentani.

10. Text 119-121. Brief account of the War of Kaitu and Uakeia and some comment on the Northern Kings, c.f. Pakeman 32.

11. Text 123-38. Life after death. Not used by Pakeman.

(a) List of 7 essential duties to be performed during life on earth if spirit is to go to Bouru.

(b) Locates and broadly differentiates between Bouru, More, Mata and Bakaranrau.

(c) Short description of burial ceremony.

(d) Describes journey of the spirit — Tarawa, Makin*, Atatao, Bakatibu, Tekatannako, Raorao, Temaunga, Temoti, Aneu, Kaini-kakiki, Bikeman*, Bouru.

(* Not quite clear whether Makin or Bikeman is entry point to Bouru)

(e) Differentiates Bouru, land of the spirit, from Manra, land of the body.

(f) Describes arrival of the spirit in Bouru and trials endured until finally accepted by Naka (seems to confirm Makin as the entry point)

(g) Concludes with a short 'song of the spirit's road'.

12.

Text Part VI

Omens or Portents. Describes
omens connected with (a) twitching and
itching of parts of the human body and (b)
animals.