

Creation story from Nui, related by Kuaron a descendant of the Nonarti fugitives from Beiran conquest.

In the beginning was the Bo ma te Maki. There was a clearing together + darkness. In the dark were born, Riiki, Sel; Bakena Sting Ray; Tabakea Turtle + Narean from forehead of Tabakea.

Riiki Bakena at sea - Marawa. Tabakea and son on land - Tarawa.

Great strife was between sea + land. Tabakea victorious because helped by Narean. Latter a great sorcerer, small ill-favoured black, curly hair standing up from head; but v. skilful in war.

After war Tabakea wanted to lift heaven. Could not save by N's help + sorcery. Riiki helped Narean. When heaven was on high N. said "There is black darkness" so Tabakea asked Bakena; plucked out right eye - the Sun; left eye - the moon.

In summit (Buto) of heaven grew Nakai and Nii Karaa who keep land of dead. Souls of dead go up to him on leaving body.