

32. E TE ATUA

E te Atua kua ruia nei	<i>Dear Lord, you have spread</i>
Ō purapura pai	<i>Your seeds of goodness</i>
Hōmai e koe he ngākau hou	<i>Give us new hearts</i>
Kia tupu ake ai	<i>So that these seeds may grow</i>

E Ihu kaua e tukua	<i>Dear Lord, do not allow</i>
Kia whakangaromia	<i>These seeds to be lost</i>
Me whakatupu ake ia	<i>But rather let them grow</i>
Kia kitea ai ngā hua	<i>So that the results may be seen</i>

A mā te Wairua Tapu rā	<i>May the Holy Spirit</i>
Mātou e tiaki	<i>Guide us</i>
Kei hoki ki te mahi hē	<i>Lest our hearts should</i>
Ō mātou ngākau hōu	<i>Return to our evil ways</i>

.....

This is a popular hīmene that uses the analogy of seed growth to explain the development of belief. It could be used as a choral performance piece set to the tune of “Amazing Grace” and is beautiful for a solo voice.

It is not usually performed with actions. Build the song using solo in the first verse, then duet in the second verse, then everyone in the third verse.

Discuss the importance of knowing hīmene as part of protocols around ceremonies such as tangi, hui, and celebrations.

Compare this hīmene to the following hīmene, “Tama Ngākau Mārie” (33). Focus on the specific words and phrases that are common in hīmene and develop a chart.

The song sheets for all waiata and haka are at the back of this book.