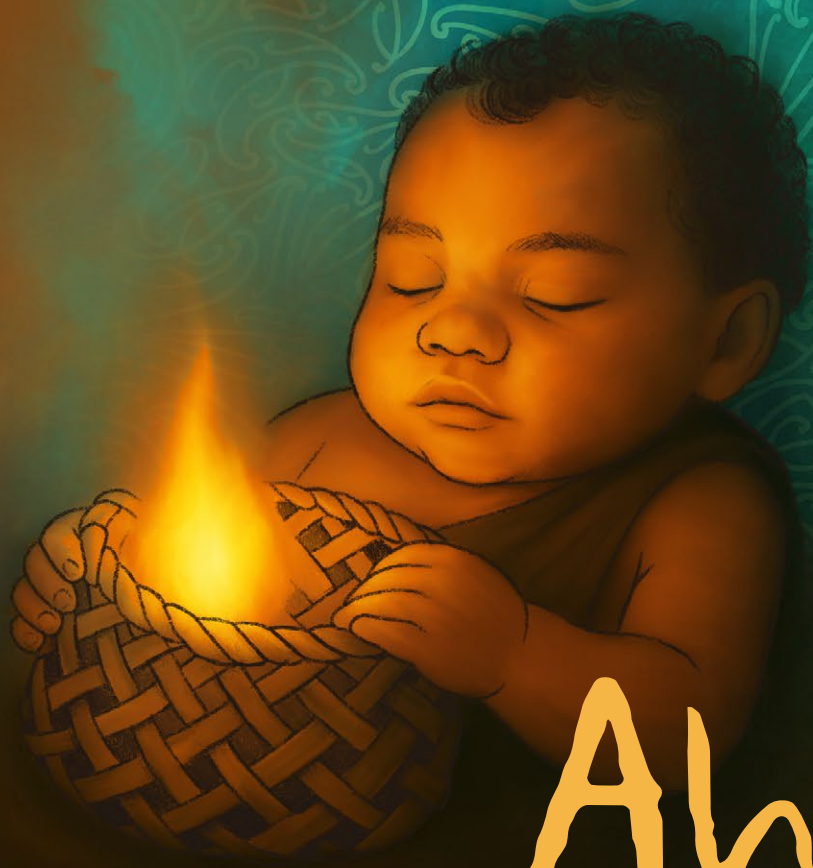




Ali

The Fire Within

The background of the entire image is a vibrant, abstract pattern of swirling, flame-like or leaf-like shapes in shades of teal, green, and orange. The pattern is dense and intricate, creating a sense of movement and energy. The colors transition from a deep teal at the top to a bright orange at the bottom, with green in the middle. The overall effect is reminiscent of a stylized fire or a lush, growing plant.

Te Pūrākau o Mahuika

The pūrākau of Mahuika, Atua of fire, has been passed down as kōrero tuku iho through generations in many whānau, hapū and iwi narratives.

While details may vary across whānau, hapū and iwi, this pūrākau acknowledges the teachings from Mahuika, her fire, her fierce spirit, her sacrifice, and her enduring gift of transformation.

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Illustrated by
Jordan Tane

Long ago, the world was cold and dark. Māui, the curious trickster, wanted to understand where fire came from.



He travelled deep into the underworld to find his kuia, Mahuika, the fierce and wise *Atua of fire.*

Mahuika carried fire in her fingertips, each flame sacred, each one precious.

With regard to aroha she gifted her mokopuna one finger of fire at a time.

But Māui tricked her over and over, until she had just one flame left. Realising she had been deceived, Mahuika was overcome with grief and rage, igniting the fire within her.



In a final act of power, she threw her last flame into the world.



Her gift was not just the warmth
of fire, it was the spark of survival,
identity, and transformation.



Kei roto tō tātou rongōa

Te Ao Māori is the puna we need
for our rongōa.

Oranga is not something to be
found outside of ourselves, it is
in our whakapapa, te reo Māori,
tikanga and mātauranga Māori.

As we walk with Mahuika through
her pūrākau, may her fire remind
us of the mana we carry, even
when dimmed by disappointment
and mamae.

Whakapapa as Protection

Mahuika is our kuia, our firekeeper.

She reminds us that
whakapapa is a source of
strength and accountability.

When we know who we are, and
where we come from, we can return
to the values of our tūpuna.

Violence fractures whakapapa.



In healing, we find each other.

Wairua and Tapu

Mahuika carried fire in her fingertips, each flame sacred, each one precious.

She offered them to Māui in trust. When he broke that sacred bond, her wairua and tapu were violated.

Her rage was tika, it was the sacred response to violated trust.

In her final act, she chose balance over vengeance, casting fire into the world, not to destroy but to restore te tapu o te tangata.

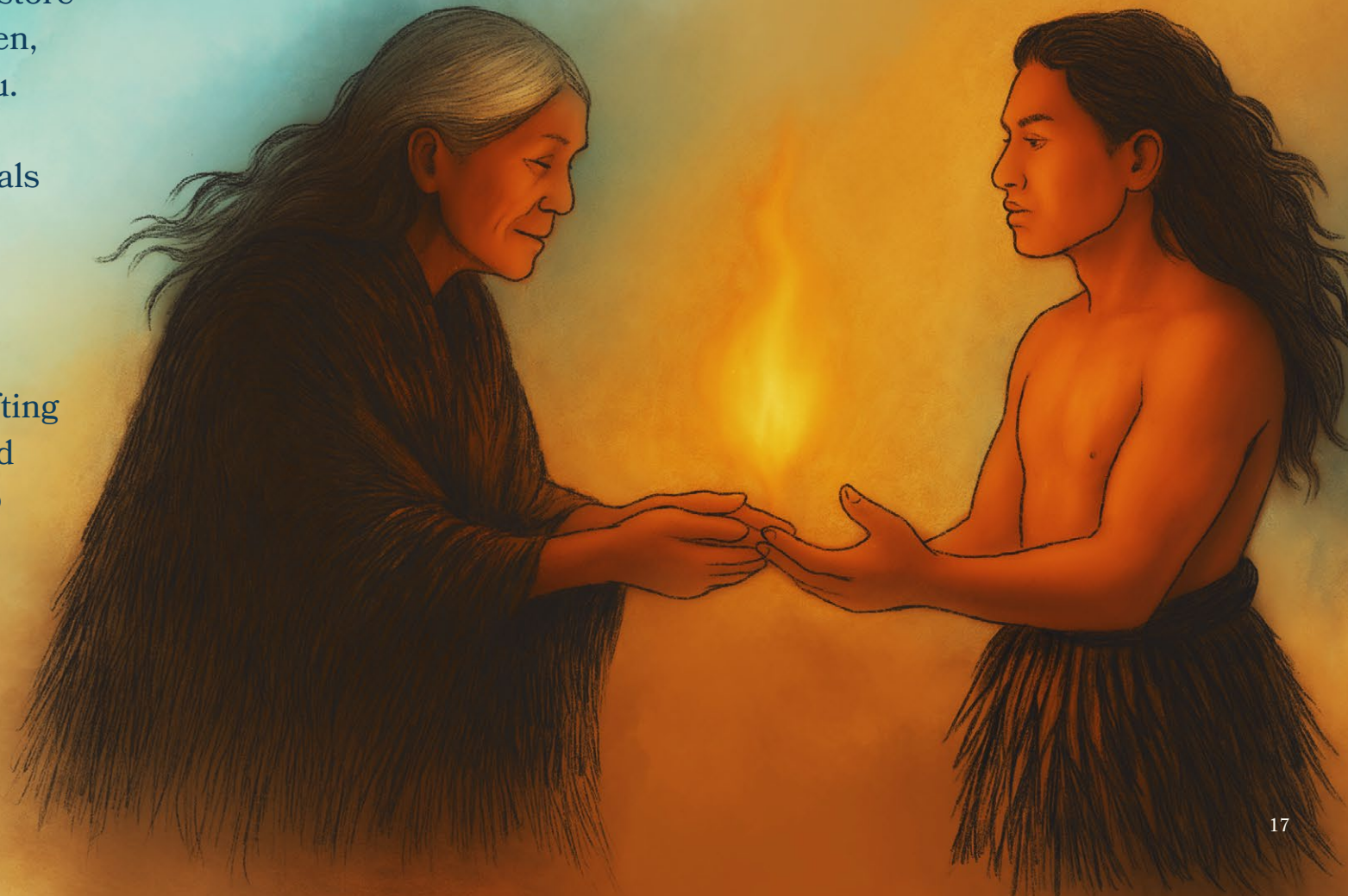


Tikanga as a Guide

Healing calls for tikanga to restore tapu, to repair what was broken, and to renew through pūrākau.

The pūrākau of Mahuika reveals that sacred gifts like fire must be shared with intention and deep respect.

Mahuika upheld tikanga in gifting her flame. When Māui violated tikanga with his trickery, deep mamae and anguish followed.





Te Ao Hurihuri

Mahuika became enraged when Māui misused her taonga, her grief erupted.

This is what happens when wairua and tapu are violated. When our deepest values are dishonoured, something deep down scatters like fire thrown into the wind.

Fire still lives on.
Our healing comes from gathering those embers again.

Pūrākau as pathways to healing

Pūrākau connects us to our whakapapa, the unseen threads that bind us to our tūpuna, our Atua, and each other.

Through pūrākau, the living fires of Mahuika endure. Pūrākau become our rongoā, teaching us to gather the scattered flames and restore what was broken.

Just as the flames pierced the darkness with light, pūrākau infuses our healing journey with wairua, awakening us to our place in the greater sacred woven universe of life.

Wānanga and Whānau-Led Healing Spaces

Wānanga is where we gather to
learn, to heal, and to remember.

Fire was passed on from
Mahuika as mātauranga,
as knowledge to embrace.

In our whānau spaces, on our
marae, through kōrero tuku iho,
we restore what has been lost.

Together in shared strength,
never isolated, never scattered.



Ahi

The Fire Within

Mahuika gave until her hands
were nearly empty.

Her depletion was sacred teaching,
revealing the cost of giving
endlessly without renewal.

Her gift, scattering fire to the world,
was an act of hope that we would
tend these flames with care.

Mahuika guides us to share our
gifts, to protect our wairua, to rest,
to restore. **Ahi, to maintain the
fire within.**





Mana-Enhancing Practices

Healing enhances mana through shared responsibility.

Not blaming — Not shaming.

Mana grows when we hold ourselves to account and support others in doing the same.

Mana endured because Mahuika chose the difficult path of restoration over retaliation.

That same strength lives in us, it is how we answer for our actions and tautoko others.

He Ara Tika

The right path to healing comes
from within, through te ao Māori,
te reo Māori, mātauranga Māori,
and our whakapapa.

Mahuika lit the path,
not just for Māui,
but for all of us.

The fire lives within us.

We are our own rongoā.



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