

Tihei Mauri Ora!

The welfare of his people

Ko te amorangi ki mua, ko te hāpai ō ki muri

The priest in front, the carriers behind

(One who leads the way will be supported by his followers)



Dr Maharaia Winiata studied at Edinburgh University, where he was the first Māori to gain the Doctor of Philosophy degree, and went on to become a great advocate for Māori education devoting most of his short life of 48 years to that end. At the unveiling of a memorial to this eminent leader, teacher and scholar, at Judea marae, Tauranga nearly fifty years ago, one of the speakers paid Dr Winiata the following tribute. “He put ***the welfare of his people*** in the forefront of his life. He strove for equality between Māori and European in the best things of life, and worked to reduce evils among his own and the Pākehā people”.

Formerly a Methodist Minister, one of Maharaia’s great qualities and lasting achievements was his love for, and faith in, “his Māori people”. Having faith in other people, specifically the people you lead and work with, is vitally important for any effective leader. When it comes down to it, it all comes down to faith - faith in others, their abilities, and of course, faith in yourself. You have to believe you can succeed, or you never will. So risk a little, try a little, and have a little bit of faith. Kia pai tō wiki!



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