

# *Tihei Mauri Ora!*

## *Be not afraid*

**Ka noho matakū, ka riro te tangata**

*The person who is afraid of something gives it power over them*



Wi Pere (1837-1915) of Kahungunu, Te Aitanga-a-Mahaki and Rongowhakaata was an outstanding leader amongst the Poverty Bay and East Cape Māori during the turbulent transition period around the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It was as a Member of the Legislative Council that the former Eastern Māori MP and champion of his people is best remembered for confidently asserting his right to speak. When speaking in Parliament to a motion of regret at the passing of a fellow parliamentarian, the fearless Pere said, “if members are annoyed at the length of my remarks let them keep it inside and not show it. I will not be stopped. If I want to speak, I will speak. I will be heard though there is the lot of you against me. I am not afraid”.

Fear is perhaps the greatest stumbling block to achieving success; but many of us do not flee from fear...we embrace it. Are you afraid of doing something? Do you let your fear of the unknown alter your course? Are you afraid of failure, or success? Fear prevents us from taking ownership of a situation. We fear ridicule; we fear loneliness; we fear new situations; we fear being stuck in old situations. To those who fear, and that's too many of us, learn from Wi Pere's example - there is only one antidote: action. Kia pai tō wiki!



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