

The tale of the canoe-crest called Te Nintawawa.

(The canoe-crest belongs to the clan or totem-sib named Bemua-kura.)

The man Tangata and the woman Rarobu lived in the land of Nabanaba, which is in the West. They lay together: their first child was Aro-Matang, the man-eating bird whose feathers were red; and their second child was Te-ibi-aro, a man.

When Te-ibi-aro was born, he was thrown away with the after-birth by his mother, and he floated away from Nabanaba to the land of Roro. He stranded upon the shoal of that land, and was found by an inhabitant, and brought up. When he was grown up, he married a woman of Roro named Nei Aro-taing.

Te-ibi-aro lay with Nei Aro-taing: they had a son, Komwenga, and a daughter, Nei Aro-tiurenga.

Komwenga grew up, and he desired to visit Nabanaba, the land of his father; so a great canoe was built for him, and he mounted upon it, he and his sister Aro-tiurenga. They voyaged Eastwards, but when they were in mid-ocean the fish whose name was Te-ika-tineaba came up from Mone, and followed them; and behold! it snatched Nei Aro-tiurenga from the canoe and carried her down to Mone.

When Nei Aro-tiurenga was lost, her brother Komwenga sailed over the sea in all directions seeking her, but he could not find her. Then he changed his mind, and went not to Nabanaba, but steered for the South. He voyaged over the South and came to Tamo; there he stayed. But after a time, he arose again and mounted upon his canoe, and sailed away to Nabanaba to find a wife.

When he came to Nabanaba, his brother Aro-Matang, the man-eating bird, arose to beat him away; but he fought with that bird and slew it. Then he took a wife from Nabanaba, and returned with her to Tamo. And when he left, he took the feathers of the bird, and its head, and made of them a crest for his canoe, and his descendants of Bemua-kura use the crest to this day.