



The Creation Legend

**OTAGOMUSEUM**

In the beginning there was no sky, no sea, no earth and no Gods.  
There was only darkness, only Te Kore, the Nothingness.  
The very beginning was made from nothing.

From this nothingness, the primal parents of the Māori came, Papatuanuku, the Earth mother, and Ranginui, the Sky father. Papatuanuku and Ranginui came together, embracing in the darkness, and had 70 male children. These offspring became the gods of the Māori.



Now that the separation of Papatuanuku and Ranginui was complete, and there was a sky and an earth. However, there was just one missing element, and Tane decided to create a female. From an area named Kura-waka Tane took some clay, and modeled it into a woman. He then breathed life into it, and created Hine-ahu-one, the earth formed maiden.



However, the children of Papatuanuku and Ranginui were locked in their parents embrace, in eternal darkness, and yearned to see some light. They eventually decided that their parents should be separated, and had a meeting to decide what should be done.



Tane-Mahuta rose. Strong as the kauri tree, placed his shoulders against his mother Papatuanuku and his feet against his father Ranginui, and he pushed hard, for a very long time.



After a long time Tane finally managed to separate Ranginui and Papa, and for the first time the children saw the light of day come streaming in.

Tane-Mahuta, the god of man and forests, and all which inhabits the forests, thought that Ranginui should go up above, to the sky, and that Papatuanuku should go below, to dwell on earth.

