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Kamehameha.

"I mua e na Pokii a inu i ka wai awaawa".

"Onward comrades, and drink the bitter waters of strife" was the war-cry of Kamehameha the Conqueror heard in the din of that immemorial battle known as the "Kepaniwai O Iao" when the flower of Maui's nobility were driven to dispersion by the warriors of Hawaii under the able leadership of Kamehameha the Great. They were equally strong, each headed by their Kings and pukauas (generals)..

Kalanikupule, son of Kahekili, King of Maui and Oahu, had not kept the promise of his father made to Kamehameha, when the latter sent ambassadors to Kahekili notifying him his intention of war. Now Kahekili was old and had put by his laau-palau and ihi-kauwila, peaceably abiding time in Kiha-hale. He listened quietly to every word of the elele (ambassadors) and thus very sagely spoke: "Return to your Alii (chief) my Alii, and say Kahekili does not wish war, but peace, for war would only leave wounds and scars on his sacred person (now Kahekili prided himself on his strength and being the reputed father of Kamehameha did not wish to combat with the young chief)" Tell him to abide and watch and when the sacrificial hog is laid low on the altar and the black tapa is over Kahekili to come and claim his own. Thus would I have it with my Aloha were the message of the noble Kahekili to come and claim".

He kept his promise faithfully, but when he was gathered unto his fathers the vow was broken by his son Kalanikupule, the last Independent king of Oahu and Maui.

The old king died at Ulukou on the shore at Apauakehau, now the site of the Seaside Waikiki Hotel.

Kamehameha leading his warriors and men met Kalanikupule advancing

on the plains of Owa. A fierce battle was fought. Neither side won victory. Onward they struggled. Inch by inch the Mauians gained headway, driving the brave men of Hawaii back to their place of rendezvous. Then was Kamehameha seen at his best. Calling his warriors together he gave them words of cheer, speaking heart to heart, encouraging them for the sake of honor and home with those beloved ones left behind to be brave and fear not death. As such visions became vivid before the young king he was saddened. He felt toward his followers in arms a brother's sympathy and then uttered the famous war-cry: "Imua ena pokii a inu i ka wai awaawa". His braves heard that voice above the din of battle. Every one eager, their limbs were strengthened with vigor and onward they rushed pell-mell to the front, driving their foes to destruction, leaving their corpses to whiten in the sun.

It was a dreadful scene. As Kamehameha had the advantage over his enemies he drove the Mauians over a little precipice and slaughtered them unmercifully, mingling their life's blood with the sweet waters of their beloved Loiloa, their bodies choking back the waters of the stream to its source, - thus the name of this battle "Kepaniwai o Iao".

Kamehameha was a great leader. He defeated Kalanikupule, son of Kahakili.

Although but a century ago, when Hawaii had not awakened to the trumpet of civilization, there were two generals far apart, remote from each other but both looked up to as leaders of their fellow-men in arms.

Nevertheless the warrior in his state of barbarism was like that general in the civilized world, - both had the ambition to aim high and conquer. Thus Kamehameha won the name of "Napoleon of the Pacific". And for his brotherly sympathy towards his men he was looked up to as a leader and *kaihuaana* (brother or comrade) during his later days. Once a poor Hawaiian

was heard boasting to his associates that his older brother was King Kamehameha. For one of so lowly a position to aim relationship to a king was an offense punishable by death. The king ordered that he be brought before his royal presence. Kamehameha asked "Why did you claim your king as your brother. Do you not know death is the penalty for your absurd boasting?" The poor man looked up to the monarch and said, "Very truly has Your Majesty spoken but it was from the very royal lips that I was called his brother on that eventful battle of "Kepaniwai when you called us on to that gory battle saying, "Imua e na pokii a inu i ka wai awaawa". (Onward, brothers, and drink the bitter waters of strife). Thus your Majesty I assumed the name of brother". "Rightly said, and justly have you earned the title. Indeed you are my brother, my faithful comrade. Come and reside with me", was Kamehameha's reply. The royal frown disappeared from his serene countenance and the man became a favourite retainer in the King's household.

By Puaa Kaninaualii Rosali

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