

A QUOTE BY RANGINUI WALKER

BEING A MAORI IS

Having the greatest Koro and Kuaia in the world.  
Respecting your Kuamatua because they have deserved it.  
Having 250,000 brothers and sisters.  
Fouling up the Government with statistics.

Having nowhere for the tamariki to go and getting a visit  
from the police who want to see them.  
Not laughing at your tamariki when they mispronounce your  
korero. Tough korero.  
Not giving up the struggle for survival.  
Waiting patiently for another, Ngata, Buck or Te Kooti

To aroha paua and mussels, and to be told you have to have a  
Pakeha permit.  
To know the difference between a Maori, a Maori-Pakeha, a  
Pakeha-Maori, a Pakeha and to be aware of the last two.  
To never drink alone.  
To be able to dodge daggers at Pakeha social gatherings.  
To listen to all-white administrators and Uncle Toms tell you  
that we are all Kiwis, and not to know what it is.

To pray to God before a hui.  
Having a Pakeha tell you that it is wrong to believe in more  
than one God, and listen to him tell you about God, Jesus  
Christ, the Holy Ghost, the Virgin Mary, St Patrick, St  
Francis, Joseph Smith etc.....

Too welcome a Pakeha at a Marae with the height of Maori.  
poetic art and to receive a cup-of-tea conversation in reply.  
To miss work because so many of your relations are dying.  
Fighting for the Kiwi Government to save the country from  
evils of communism and fighting the Government to save your  
land.

Owning land and not being able to use it. Going to school to  
eat your kai. Watching the teacher teach the other kids.  
Punching a pakeha in the mouth because he called you  
dumb. Getting your Pakeha spouse to go and ask the Landlord  
for the flat. Belonging to a particular tribe which is the  
best in the country. Believing your canoe is most certainly  
better than the Queen Mary.

Having your friends and relatives accuse you of being a thief  
because you drive a new car, earn more than \$7000, wear a tie  
and have a new home. Thinking theres something wrong with  
your colour T.V. when it appears to be hooked up to Great  
Britian. Feeding everyone who comes to your door and getting  
the best china out. Buying new shoes for your kids because he  
gave his to his cuzzie. Watching Tarzan save Africa. Liking  
Air New Zealands tail. Running yourself broke to service the  
marae to service the whole world.

BEING MAORI IS SAD, BEING MAORI IS HARD, BEING MAORI IS TO  
LAUGH, BEING IS TO CRY, BEING MAORI IS ME;

BEING MAORI IS FOREVER