



· P U A T U T A H I ·

Pua Tu Tahī is one of the evil gods of fish in the Rata legend. Giant bivalve, dominates the Pacific seas along with the other evil gods. This great clam could emerge to the surface and look like a large mountainous island, while absorbing the boats that sailed nearby.



Legend has it that a young couple of princes, Vahi-e-roa and Matamata-
taua, had a son they called Rata. The same night of birth, the parents
joined a fishermen's party, where they were captured by the great
demon bird Matutu-ta'ota'o, which took them flying out to sea.

He gave the woman to his master's wife, King Puna, who tormented her for years. A husband, on the other hand, dismembered him and threw him into the sea, so that Pua Tu Tahī would eat him. And indeed, the god of fish opened to swallow Rata's father.

Years later, Rata, who had grown up in the deception that his grandmother was really his mother, when knowing the truth wanted to avenge his father and rescue his mother, so he built a canoe and went to sea.

Pua Tu Tahī emerged to the surface and passed through a mountain, while sucking the water to swallow the canoe. But Rata stood at the

prow with his spear, and waited to reach the very center of the clam. There he pierced his heart with the spear and separated the meat from the shell, preventing it from closing. Once the canoe was safe, Pua Tu Tahi, dead, sank in the depths of the sea.



Pua Tu Tahi is a creature originating from **TAHITI**

Current population: 189.517



Tahiti, one of the most remote inhabited places in the world, is located in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, thousands of kilometers from the continents. It was colonized around 300 BC during the

Austronesian migrations, for which it is an ethnically and linguistically Polynesian people.

Tahiti is a set of two islands joined by an isthmus, surrounded by a barrier of coral. In total it has about 1000 km², although most of the territory is very mountainous (with a peak of 2241 m) and the population only resides in the coastal strip.

During the centuries following their arrival, the Polynesians created a complex society, which on the one hand followed a paradisiacal way of life that fascinated the Europeans, but on the other hand it had a very marked warrior component. It was divided into very defined territories, each dominated by a clan, competing with each other, often in the form of ruthless wars. Internally, each territory was divided into castes, with a very powerful nobility and a clan chief.

The Tahitians worshiped a hierarchical series of gods, ranging from the primordial god to divine domestic entities. All of them had to be honored and placated through offerings and sacrifices, which in case of war could include human sacrifices of enemies, with cannibalism.

The soil, very fertile, and the abundance of fishing facilitated the life of the Tahitians, who did not suffer hardships to feed themselves or needed dresses or refuges to protect themselves from a very stable and benign climate.

The arrival of Europeans, especially in the eighteenth century, was taken advantage of by a clan chief to ally with them, becoming the first king of all Tahiti, Pomare. As a king, he helped foreigners Christianize their people and replace their traditions, even forcing them to cover

their bodies with clothes.

The diseases, which decimated its population (from 40,000 people in 1797 to 5960 eighty years later), internal conflicts between clans and the growing power of European merchants and missionaries led to the abdication of the last king in 1880 and the annexation from Tahiti to France.

Even today Tahiti is still part of the French Republic. However, their cultural identity has been reborn in recent decades, and their language is still used massively.

