

# New Beginnings

A CREATIVE ADAPTATION OF THE HI'IAKA MYTH  
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## *New Beginnings*

Throughout my life I always loved love. My sister Pele, the Volcano Goddess, is the person I have loved the most, ever since I can remember. Pele took me as one of her own after she had to flee home after being banished from our home in Kahiki by our parents. Pele told me our sister Namaka became jealous of her and demanded for Pele to be punished. Namaka's husband made advances on Pele and when she rejected him, he switched the story and claimed Pele was trying to seduce him. I felt so sad when I learned Pele had to suffer from the consequences of a gross man who couldn't handle rejection but at least some of our siblings decided to come with her in the search of a new home. I was just a newborn and had no more knowledge of our family. Every time one of my other siblings brings up anything about the past, Pele gets upset but I think it's the pain inside of her that reflects in anger.

Today, my sister Pele decided my sisters and I would accompany her to a fun trip to the beach since she hadn't been there in a while. As we arrived at the beach, I saw the most beautiful woman I have ever seen in my entire life. She radiated light, all of her, from her sun kissed skin to her beautiful long and caramel hair that moved like the waves of the ocean. The beautiful woman was dancing with someone else, but she had the most soothing and astonishing voice while she sang, she was dancing hula and her hips moved in synchronicity with the universe and the wind, she was one with nature.

Pele asked our sisters and I to join the two women in their hula, even though my sisters were not inspired, I was aroused by this woman and felt encouraged to join them. The woman I had laid eyes on made eye contact with me and did not break it until we were done dancing. I couldn't help but notice her body was a masterpiece of nature's design. Her eyes were so

intriguing and mysterious, they were like the Earth's golden secrets. The sparkles in her eyes glowed like the shining stars in a dark night. As we stop, I feel the urge to know her name.

"Hi! I am Hi'iaka, nice to meet you!" I say with a high-pitched tone.

"I am Hopoe, and this is Haena, our pleasure to meet you!" the beautiful woman says.

The other woman gets closer to us and introduces herself.

"I am Haena, nice meeting you as well. I will leave you two alone and say hi to your friends".

Before I can correct her and explain they are my sisters, Haena leaves and heads over to my sisters, except for Pele that is nowhere to be seen.

"I am astonished by your dancing, very inspiring" I blush as her pearl-like teeth show up in a smile.

"I am flattered but your dancing was better than mine, your beauty adds more appeal to the way you move". She says as she gets closer to me and grabs my hand. "I know some trees nearby that grow my favorite flowers, we can make leis for each other if you want to get out of here for a bit".

"I wouldn't mind having some alone time with you". I smile.

Hopoe grabs my hand and leads me to a forest area where my sacred grove is. I wonder if she knows I own this grove or even if she knows I am a Goddess, I try to not tell people this since technically I haven't really done anything heroic for me to gain this title and don't want to claim it until I do so.

"I heard the Goddess of the Hula owns this place, people said she is beautiful, but I don't think she could be as alluring as you are, Hi'iaka". She says as she hands me material to make a leis and we sit on the ground next to each other.

I smile knowing she doesn't know who I am, and I get a chance to be myself and attempt for her to fall in love with me. I think this is what people say it's love at first sight, at least for me. I have never felt this weight on my heart and knot in my throat when I try to speak. My breathing is different, I am honored to be around her, I am lucky I get to see her beauty this close. Only thing I forgot to take into consideration is if she is into other women. She complimented me but I am not sure if it was in a friendly way or in a "I am attracted romantically to you".

"I don't think anyone could be more breathtaking as you are, Hopoe. I am really mesmerized by everything about you. From your voice to your dancing, to every single feature you have. I could get lost in the wonders of your eyes."

Hopoe smiles and puts her incomplete leis down. She gets up and puts her knees on the sides of both my legs, getting on top of me. I feel my heart drop and I try to keep my breathing quiet but her skin being so close to mine and her body against mine is arousing me. Hopoe grabs the back of my head and pushes me into a passionate kiss. We spend the night together and the nights turn into days at least three times.

The second night together I had a dream where I would go on a quest far away. I didn't think anything of it. I just thought I was dreaming of achieving my goal of earning the title of a Goddess who saved people and make them feel safe.

"Wake up, you are safe love." Hopoe smiled and kissed me.

"I had a strange dream."

"How so? Did we get married?"

"I wish it was that lovely. In my dream I was sent away for a quest, I was protecting you from something, but I didn't know what it was."

“It’s probably nothing, maybe just your adventure side is acting up, we might need to take on an adventure together.”

“Hopoe, there’s something I haven’t told you. I haven’t been completely honest with you about who I am...”

“You are the Goddess of hula?”

“Yes, wait, how did you know?”

“You murmured it before you woke up. Why did you keep it a secret? I showed you the trees and you didn’t even mention they were yours.”

“I apologize, Hopoe. I didn’t want to give myself a title I haven’t earned. I didn’t tell you also because a lot of people want to be by my side because of my status. I realized you didn’t know who I was and thought it might be my opportunity to make you fall in love for who I am.

“You wanted to make me fall even more in love after you danced with me for the first time by the beach?”

“Even more?” I asked.

“I’ve been in love with you since day one, I just confirmed it even more by getting to know you.”

She smiled and pulled me closer. “You are my Goddess regardless of status”.

“You are mine”.

“Let’s get some rest, come on, I’ll hold you”.

The next morning, I woke up to the feel of my older sister calling for me.

“Good morning love, want to go for a swim?” Hopoe smiled and kissed me.

“Good morning sunshine, I wish I could, but Pele is calling for me, she needs me now. Can I look for you after and we can be together again?”

“Go ahead, family is important”. She smiled and let go of me.

I felt Pele calling me in a passive aggressive way, like she needed a favor, but she also felt angry.

When I got home my sisters were talking to each other and Pele wasn't there.

"Whatever Pele asks, say no". One of my sisters held my hand.

Before I could say anything, Pele came in through the main door.

"Hi'iaka, where were you? I was calling you for hours". She said with a grin.

"I was with Hopoe, is everything alright?"

"Follow me" she said as she pulled me into the other room.

"I have fallen in love, little sister. He is a princen and a mortal," She paused. "His name is Lohi'au. We spent 3 days kissing, but I had to leave."

"I am so happy for you sister, so have I! Isn't it crazy?"

Pele's smile dropped and her facial expression showed anger, but she kept her neutral tone.

"We were talking about me, don't make this about you".

My heart dropped when she said this. Why couldn't we share this beautiful moment?

"I am sorry sister; I had no idea you were going to be bothered by this. My most sincere apologies".

"You are forgiven, well, you can be". She smiled, "I need a big favor to ask".

"What is it?"

"Well, my prince is at the Island of Kauai. I promised him while my spirit traveled to him that I would send someone to get him so we could...be together".

"You want me to go get him?"

"Yes, I wanted to ask you because you're my favorite sister. All of our ungrateful siblings declined but I figured, since I raised you as my own, you would be happy for this opportunity."

"My opportunity?"

“Yes! Your opportunity of claiming your power and earning the title of a Goddess, an adventure to prove how powerful and amazing you are”.

“It is, you’re right, but I need more time to think it over. I must make sure Hopoe is okay with this”.

“Oh, is this the new person you fell in love with?

“Yes, it is, I fell in love with her after our trip to the beach”. I smiled, I was finally able to tell my older sister.

“A woman? That is unforeseen,” she paused and grinned, “Um, what about this. You go and get my prince, and I promise to keep your hula trees and your lover safe from... Well, me.

“What do you mean keep them safe from you? You wouldn’t--”

“I would. I am offering you a chance to prove yourself, to prove your worth, earn your Goddess title, I am providing you with more power than she can ever provide. Don’t waste that, don’t be a fool”. Pele’s smile was long gone. “I am saving you from the worst mistake of your life, Hi’iaka”.

“Saving me from what? From you?”

“This is my last warning, you can either go on this journey to bring him to me, becoming who you always wanted to be, or a lesson would be taught. Your decision”.

I had never seen Pele being so hostile. I was terrified of what she might do to Hopoe if I didn’t agree to go on this quest.

“I accept but I have to say my good-byes”.

I walked away and my sisters moved from the door when I opened them and asked me if I was sure about going. I had no choice. I made my way to Hopoe to break down the bad news.

Hopeo wasn't at her home, so I headed over my groove and found her, she was waiting for me. She stood up and ran towards me. She jumped and hugged me with her legs around my waist.

"The volcanoes are active; they are becoming active. What is going on?" she asked with a somber tone.

"I am sorry love; I am being sent in a quest of bringing my sister her prince from the Islands of Kauai".

"You can't go, it's extremely dangerous, there are shape shifting lizards everywhere, they are horrible monsters".

"I am given no choice, I must go".

"You can't leave me, what if you get hurt and cannot come back? Or worse..."

"I will have my sister provide her blessing and protection and provide powers to help me achieve this goal".

"If you must go, please ask Pele for strong and powerful companions, you cannot go alone. I would volunteer but I will not last a night outside of our Island.

"I would never ask for that and I would oppose you putting yourself in danger. I am doing this for us, to protect you, to protect what we have".

"What do you mean?"

"I promise everything will be fine, I promise you are safe and protected. I will return and we will get married".

"I accept your proposal, but you must take this as a reminder of my love".

Hopeo pulled out a new leis she had made for me.

"I love it, I love you." I started crying and pulled her into a deep kiss.



“I love you too, Hi’iaka.”

The volcanos began to tremble and that was my sign to return home and hear Pele’s conditions and aids for this long journey ahead of me.

“I will see you soon, I promise, Hopoe.”

“I will pray to you and mother nature to bring you home safe, I will be waiting for you.”

I kissed Hopoe, I forced myself to pull away and head home. My heart hurt like it never had, I was afraid that would be the last time I would see the woman with the sun kissed skin who I had fallen deeply for. This felt like the beginning of my biggest nightmare.

### **Author’s Note**

My creative process to make this adaptation flourished the very first time I read the Hi’iaka Myth. I thought to myself that I would love to see how Hi’iaka and Hopoe fell in love and how they spent their days before Pele sent Hi’iaka on her quest. I kept this story in the same period and setting because it is made as a prequel to the original myth. I decided to add Namaka and portray her on the point of view and victim mentality of Pele and how she retold her stories avoiding the truths that might harm her image. Throughout the story I pictured Hi’iaka being a pansexual Goddess who was in love with love; I also pictured Pele as a narcissistic woman who manipulated Hi’iaka constantly due to her innocence and lack of self. I made the story based on the views and feelings I had from the characters and story itself. I made Pele be seen as a villain from the beginning because there were signs, she was a bad and selfish woman, but Hi’iaka just wanted to believe the best out of her, leading her to trust blindly.

My adaptation doesn’t change the message for the original story since it’s a prequel, we have our main character being the hero and her sister being her shadow. Hi’iaka falls in the archetype of the balanced lover. Hi’iaka is a lover that connects with people and falls for Hopoe

without expecting anything in return, she believes love is all we need to overcome anything. Pele is portrayed as her shadow, the unbalanced lover. Although they both fell in love within days, they both approached the situation with different perspectives and attitudes. Pele wants to feel desired; she manipulates people around her to get what she wants and fulfill her lustful desires; she becomes obsessive and jealous.