MORE HAWAIIAN FOLK TALES

A COLLECTION OF
NATIVE LEGENDS AND TRADITIONS

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THE WIZARD STONES OF KA-PAE-MAHU
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These mid-Pacific isles have many legends attached to various localities, and mountains, rivers, lakes and other places have their goblin and other stories of by-gone ages.

In Hawaii are many places which give ocular proof of the supernatural tales of mythical beings who are credited with a personality equal in lore to the celebrities of ancient Greek mythology, and the doings of the dreaded gods of Hawaii have been recounted amongst the Hawaiian people for successive generations.

The doings of a quartette of sorcerers, who have prestige amongst the mele singers and recounters of ancient Hawaiian lore, were revived a few years ago by the unearthing of long concealed monuments on the Waikiki beach premises of Princess Kaiulani. These discovered relics of ancient days have brought out the tradition of their existence, to the following effect:

From the land of Moaulaniakea (Tahiti), there came to Hawaii long before the reign of Kakuihewa, four soothsayers from the court of the
Tahitian king. Their names were: Kapaemahu, Kahaloa, Kapuni and Kinohi. They were received as became their station, and their tall stature, courteous ways and kindly manners made them soon loved by the Hawaiian people. The attractiveness of their fine physique and gentle demeanor was overshadowed by their low, soft speech which endeared them to all with whom they came in contact. They were unsexed by nature, and their habits coincided with their feminine appearance, although manly in stature and general bearing. After a long tour of the islands this quartette of favorites of the gods settled at Ulukou, Waikiki, locating near the site of the present Moana Hotel.

The wizards or soothsayers proved to be adepts in the science of healing, and many wonderful cures by the laying on of hands are reported to have been effected by them, so that their fame spread all over this island (Oahu), as the ancients say, "from headland to headland," and their wisdom and skill was shown by many acts which gave them prestige among the people.

In course of time, knowing that their days amongst their Hawaiian friends were drawing to a close, they caused their desire for recognition for past services to be remembered in some tangible form, or manner, so that those who might come after, could see the appreciation of those who had been succored and relieved of pain and suffering
by their ministrations during their sojourn among them.

As an enduring reminder, the wizards agreed amongst themselves that the people should be asked to erect four monumental tablets, two to be placed on the ground of the habitation, and two at their usual bathing place in the sea. They gave their decision to the people as a voice from the gods, and instructed that the stones be selected from among those in the “bell rock” vicinity of Kaimuki.

The night of Kane was the time indicated for the commencement of the work of transportation, and thousands responded to aid in the labor. Four large selected boulders, weighing several tons each, were taken to the beach lot at Ulukou, Waikiki, two of which were placed in position where their house stood, and the other two were placed in their bathing place in the sea. Kapaemahu, chief of the wizards, had his stone so named, and transferred his witchcraft powers thereto with incantations and ceremonies, including a sacrificial offering, said to have been that of a lovely, virtuous young chiefess, and her body placed beneath the stone. Idols indicating the unsexed nature of the wizards were also placed under each stone and tradition tells that the incantations, prayers and fastings lasted one full moon. Tradition further states, as is related in the old-time meles of that period, that, after the ceremonies which transferred all their powers, by each of the wizards to the stones thus
placed, they vanished, and were seen no more. But the rocks having lately been discovered they have been exhumed from their bed of sand and placed in position in the locality found, as tangible evidence of a Hawaiian tale.