



Guide to Dramatizing Hawaiian Myth
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Introduction to Hawaiian Mythology

Hawaiian Culture thrived in peace and harmony for over a thousand years. The worship of nature and personifying of the natural elements is the Hawaiian religion. Natives arrived on the islands about 300 AD, and created a life based on harmonious relationships with family and all tropical life.

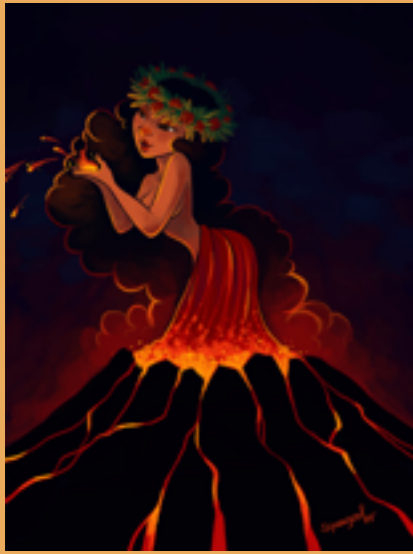
Hawaiian life values the wisdom of the elders, known as *kahunas*. The *Honi* is a sacred custom where an older *kahuna* would teach a younger a skill or a value. This custom was almost lost as well as other sacred ways when the United States overthrew the Hawaiian Kingdom. The overthrow reduced the natives to nothingness and denounced their *voodoo* religion. The new government would not allow the speaking of Hawaiian or the Hula dance.

The culture is and has been in jeopardy, but in the last twenty years is having a revival, because the younger generation is listening and learning again from the elders. There is a strong desire among natives to bring back that which was lost. There is an outpouring of political activism to regain their rightful land.

Oral story telling about the Gods and their many ordeals and epic events were handed down for generations. The story teller would tell a story for over an hour, and not miss a word or a detail. The hula dance was an enactment of the ancient tales. It was not just a seductive act to get attention. It was and still is a sanctified dance in which the lyrics are not composed by humans, but by the divine. Hawaiian myths are usually extraordinarily long, ridden with continuous cause and effect. The tales are abundant with symbolism, and have significant cautionary and advisory lessons to share.

There are numerous deities, but I am presenting my favorite eight which include some of the major famous ones. The Gods and Goddesses are respected and loved equally. The religion is about balance and love and peace. *Aloha*, the standard greeting in Hawaii, means *I love you*.

There is a history of minimal violence, but a group of islanders killed Captain Hook in the late 1700's, who was an insulting assault on their sacred culture. It is a non violent society, but will use violence if it's the last resort.



Pele

The Fire Goddess

* Pele *is* the *energy* of the molten lava itself rather than just a symbol or representation of fire. She is also the Goddess of fertility, love, and beauty. She is one of the most famous of the Gods and is said to be happy where she lives in the crater of the Kilauea volcano. The islanders believe that an eruption is equivalent to a menstrual flow. Pele flows to the ocean just like the women of the old days would go to the ocean to cleanse themselves. Pele is also a master shape shifter. She is known to shape shift into an old woman, or a young beautiful woman, and she is accompanied by a small white dog. The islanders believe that if one sees this woman in whatever disguise that they should give her what she asks for, and then they will be blessed. She carries a magic wooden stick that is used for a variety of magical purposes and guided her to her living spot.



Kanaloa

God of Ocean & Ocean Winds

* Kanaloa wears a headdress that touches the ground for the purpose of integrating the conscious and the unconscious mind. It is said that a sick person could look into the eye of Kanaloa and be healed. This God has been given credit for establishing fresh water springs on the island and making sure that they stay clear for drinking. Canoe men will call on Kanaloa when sailing and fishing for safety and success. Kanaloa's symbol is the octopus or squid. The name Kanaloa means grounded. It is positive to have a solid foundation that brings security, strength and healing.

Lono

The Fertility God

* Lono is said to have once been a man that became a God. He is also said to have descended from the heavens on a rainbow to marry Laka, the Goddess of fertility. Many of the Gods are blessed with fertility. He has wings. He blesses the land with rich and abundant food and plants.



Laka

The Fertility Goddess

*Humans dedicate the hula to Laka. Laka is married to Lono. Laka is a vegetation Goddess as well as a fertility Goddess. One can call on Laka for abundance and love. She is credited with inventing the hula dance. Red lehua blossoms decorate her shrine.





Ku *God of War*

*Ku is famous for carrying a fiery mace that holds the souls of those he's slain in battle. He is credited for saving all of the Hawaiian Gods before the world began. Ku is one of the four major Hawaiian gods. The God Lono is Ku's brother and is the God of Peace.



Hi'iaka

Goddess of the Wind

*Hi'iaka is Pele's sister who she carried with her in an egg originally. Hi'iaka can be called upon to find something, because wind has direction. She can also be called on to change something, because wind changes direction. The Hi'iaka plant is named after her, because it is the vine that protected her as a baby. Hi'iaka learned and inherited powers from her sister Pele. She is also the Goddess of Dance.



Haumea

Earth Mother

*Haumea is Pele's mama. She is said to have four hundred thousand forms. A famous story tells how she put fish on the tree, originally, and cautioned for no one to shake the tree, so that the fish fall to the ground before ripened. The humans ended up shaking the tree, and that is why fishermen have to fish in the sea instead of on a tree.



Kapo Goddess of Sorcery

*Kapo is said to have been born from the eyes of Haumea. She is of high rank and is able to assume many shapes at will. She has the power to separate her female sexual organ in which some refer to as the *traveling vagina*.



Conclusion

The Hawaiian culture has suffered in the last 150 years. The teachings of the Gods almost fell away when the hula was outlawed. However, the hula in its pure and true form is now returning and the chants of the hula tell stories of epic times and battles with the darker, *invisible aku*. Hawaiians are being inspired and reinvigorated by this ancient dance that teaches language, history, spirituality and respect for culture.

This is an optimum time to keep *talking* story as a way to bring the culture and islanders back together and for the people to regain their true heritage. The Gods want to tell their stories to the whole world, so that the whole world can benefit and heal and thrive rather than go down the black hole.

The stories are complete with colorful details. Exciting and interesting mythical characters have something to teach us all. Everything happens for a reason. Volcanic activity is essential to life, and not a bad thing. Volcanic ash fertilizes the soil, and volcanic activity exhibits the power of creation and destruction. Islanders respect the volcano, but do not fear it or look at the volcano as a monster. Even the volcano is a place of reverence.

Further films and interactive games highlighting the mythical gods true purposes and abilities could be fantastical fun. Hula competitions, a quiz to determine which God fits the player best, shape shifting adventure, and learning to recognize and escape the trickster villains could make for one super fun game with awesome learning experiences.

Non-violent video games are recommended, nonetheless, because the true culture is one of peaceful relationships with all life. Turning Pele into a warrior Goddess who battles is somewhat inappropriate, for example. Pele is in battle with the sea, which is not a true battle, but is symbolic of life emerging from chaos.

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