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THE GREAT DEEDS OF MAUI
" "
A PLAY IN TWO ACTS

SUBMITTED TO THE GRADUATE SCHOOL OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT
OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF
MASTER OF FINE ARTS

JUNE 1956

By *Arlington*
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PREFACE

The Great Deeds of Maui is a dramatization in two acts of four episodes in the life of the Polynesian culture hero, Maui. It is written for presentation by an adult cast for an audience of intermediate school children.

The writer's purpose has been to explore the dramatic possibilities of Hawaiian legendary material, with the hope that other local writers will do likewise and thus make available an increasing body of dramatic material suitable for use in the schools of Hawaii.

The principal source of material has been Dr. Katharine Luomala's definitive study, Maui-of-a-thousand-tricks: His Oceanic and European Biographers. Different versions of the legends have been drawn chiefly from the Fornander, Thrum, and Westervelt collections of Hawaiian folklore.

INTRODUCTION

The Legend and the Play

Maui is the most popular and most widely known legendary hero of the South Pacific. His various exploits have been recounted by numberless storytellers of Polynesia from the remote past to the present day. Although the versions differ considerably from island to island, the basic structure of the legend remains the same.

Born in a miraculous manner, Maui is the youngest son of Hina-of-the-Fire. Rejected by his parents at first, he finally wins recognition by tricking his parents in various ways and establishes himself as a member of the household. Usually characterized as a trickster and a boaster, Maui almost always succeeds in making good his boasts. His exploits include the lifting of the sky, the fishing up of various Pacific islands, the snaring of the sun, the bringing of fire to man, and the attempt to win immortality for man. He is also credited with the invention of kites, the creation of dogs, and the rearrangement of some of the Polynesian landscape.

In dramatizing Maui's story, I have invented nothing, but I have occasionally added details and reorganized material in an attempt to produce a more dramatic effect. Versions differ as to the identity of the "bailer girl" who assisted in the fishing up of the islands; rather than add a third Hina to the cast, I have chosen to make her Maui's sister, Hina-of-the-Sea -- surely

a logical choice for such an accomplished underwater swimmer.

Several versions of the legend give Maui a wife -- or wives -- but nowhere does she play an important part in the story. Usually she is unnamed, but occasionally she is the third Hina mentioned above, Hina-of-the-Moon. I have arbitrarily made her the girl with the gourd, and in christening her Maileaala, I have borrowed a name from another Hawaiian legend, Laieikawai, for the sole purpose of making identification of the women easier.

The entire Maui cycle was apparently never known in the Hawaiian Islands. However, all four episodes included in the dramatization were part of the culture of the Hawaiian people from the remote past. It is for this reason, as well as for their inherent dramatic aspects, that they have been chosen.

THE GREAT DEEDS OF MAUI

Cast of Characters

Today

TUTU A lei seller
MAKANA A little girl
KEOKI A little boy

Yesterday

MAUI-O-KA-LANI A Polynesian youth
MAUI-MUA)
MAUI-HOPE) His elder brothers
MAUI-KIIKII)
HINA-O-KE-AHI His mother
HINA-O-KE-KAI His sister
MAILE-AALA A Polynesian girl
KUPUNA An old woman
THE SUN A powerful man
ALAE-IKI. A bird guardian of the fire (A girl)
ALAE-NUI Another bird
Villagers, girl dancers, birds

The Day Before Yesterday

KU)
KANE) The great gods
LONO)
KUMU-HONUA. The first man
KE-OLA-KU-HONUA The first woman
Spirits

THE GREAT DEEDS OF MAUI

Prologue

(At the rise the stage is completely dark. TUTU's voice is heard from down-right. She speaks with local inflection and pronunciation throughout.)

TUTU In the old days there was neither earth nor sky,
 sea nor land -- only cold, dark night. There were
 no men or women or children -- only the great gods:
 Ku, Kane, and Lono.

(A dim blue light comes up behind a scrim, revealing in silhouette three figures on a high level, up-center.)

TUTU And the great gods tired of the darkness, so they
 broke the night into pieces, and the light came in.
 (The light comes up slightly. The stage is bare
 except for the outlines of a mountain upon which
 the gods are standing.)

TUTU And the great gods were weary, so they made three
 heavens for their dwelling place, and the earth
 for their footstool. And they created the sun
 and the moon and the stars and hung them in the
 heavens to light their way. And they raised up
 spirits to serve them.

(SHADOWY FIGURES appear on the lower levels and
make their way up the mountain.)

TUTU

And when the great gods looked down upon the earth they saw that it was beautiful. Fishes swam in the seas, and animals roamed upon the land. But one thing was wanting; so the gods took council together and made man and gave him all the good things of the earth to enjoy. And they made woman and gave her to man as a wife. And the man was called Kumuhomua, and the woman was called Keolakuhonua. And these were the parents of all men.

(MAN and WOMAN appear down-left and move slowly across the stage, looking about them in wonder. As they exit right, lights slowly begin to dim out behind the scrim.)

TUTU

And as the years went by the children of Kumuhomua and Keolakuhonua filled all the earth. Some of them went into the lands to the north and south, and some of them took their canoes and sailed east over the sea, following the stars of Ku and Kane and Lono, and so they became our fathers.

(The lights are now out completely.)

TUTU

Now the gods were very close to our people in those days, and to some they gave special magic powers. Such a one was Maui, the great hero, whose wonderful deeds are still remembered.

(Lights slowly come up behind the scrim. A thatched grass hut stands down-left, before the door of which sit HINAOKEAHI and HINAOKEKAI weaving mats. Left center the THREE BROTHERS sit working on nets. The lighted area should extend only to the top of the hut, not more than five feet from the stage floor. All above this should be in deep shadow, indicating the sky.)

TUTU

When Maui was a boy the earth and sky were very close together. Some say the great gods had never cut them apart, while others think the sky, which was made of hard blue stone, had fallen until it rested upon the tops of the trees. Tall men had to stoop when they walked about, and when fishermen tried to throw their nets the sky got in their way. (MAUIMUA attempts to cast a fishnet, which falls short. The THREE BROTHERS indicate their displeasure at this state of affairs.)

TUTU

And it was very hot. The trade winds had no room to blow, and the Sun raced across the sky right above the heads of the people.

(The TWO WOMEN look up, shielding their eyes and shrinking back from the oncoming Sun, a great light which crosses quickly from left to right, just above the lighted area.)

TUTU

All the people grumbled and complained, but no one could do more -- until Maui came.



ever I try to cast my net the sky gets in the
way, and I catch nothing.

(MAUI comes out of the house. As he straightens
up, he yawns, stretches, and hits his knuckles
against the sky.)

ACT I

Scene one

(The scrim is raised, but the lighting remains the same. Girls' voices, laughing and talking, are heard off left. The BROTHERS look in that direction. MAILEAALA, a pretty young girl carrying a gourd filled with water, and a group of companions with gourds and flowers enter. MAUIMUA, the eldest brother, leaves his work and goes towards them.)

MUA Have you come to bring us flowers to brighten our work?

(The GIRLS giggle and shake their heads.)

MUA (turning to Maile) Give me a drink from your gourd. Mending nets is thirsty work.

MAILE (with a toss of her head) The water and the flowers are not for you. We have had hard work bringing them here, creeping and crawling under this hateful sky. In the mountains there were many beautiful flowers, but I am bruised from trying to pick them. (She shows him her arms in proof.)

MUA It is true. The sky is a great nuisance. Whenever I try to cast my net the sky gets in the way, and I catch nothing.

(MAUI comes out of the house. As he straightens up, he yawns, stretches, and hits his knuckles against the sky.)

MAUI Auwe! (He nurses his injured hand and looks up at the sky belligerently.)

MAILE (pointing at him and laughing) Here is the mighty fisherman. The sky does not bother Maui'ike. He has great schemes for overcoming it.

MAUI (crossing to them) I have indeed. I am tired of banging my head upon the sky every morning and of creeping and crawling around under its weight. One day I will lift the sky and make room for the winds to blow.

MUA Braggart! You are always going to do great deeds, but what have you done? Nothing! You cannot even catch fish unless you steal them from my hook. (The GIRLS laugh.)

MAUI I am still a boy. Wait until I am a man with a man's strength. Then you will see how I shall overcome the sky.

MAILE Ae. We shall wait -- and wait -- and wait. Maui'ike is a mighty talker. One day he will do great deeds -- but not today. He is too lazy.

(ALL laugh. MAUI, disgruntled, returns to sit beside his mother. SHE offers him some fruit which he takes and starts to eat.)

MUA Pay no attention to this boaster. He is only a dreamer. There are better ways to spend the time. (MUA, MAILE, and the girls return to the center

where the other brothers have been watching. ALL sit.

The MEN continue working on their nets. The GIRLS begin stringing flower leis.)

HINAOKEAHI (to Maui, softly) Never mind, my son. One day you will make good your boasts. The gods have promised you great power. You will learn many secrets that your brothers will not share.

MAUI I am tired of waiting. Have I not already made my way into the dark places of the earth and learned from my father the secret of my birth?

HINAOKEAHI (with a glance at the brothers) Sh, my child. This secret is ours.

MAUI (throwing away the fruit and rising to his feet) I will wait no longer. Today I shall lift the sky. (MAUI strides with determination towards the group. MAILE looks at him, provocatively.)

MAUI (to Maile) Give me a drink from your gourd, and I shall lift the sky. (There is general laughter.)

MAILE Go back to your mother, child. I have no water for you.

MAUI I am Mauiokalani, and I am no longer a child. Give me a drink, I say, and you shall see me lift the sky. (As if compelled by a force outside herself, MAILE holds her gourd out to Maui. HE takes it and drinks deeply, throwing the gourd away when he is finished.

MAUI then moves slowly down center, looks up, braces himself, and places his hands against the sky. He pushes hard, but at first nothing happens. The GROUP, watching his every move, laughs and calls rudely. MAUI wipes his hands on his malo, plants his feet more firmly and tries again. The second attempt is accompanied by more derisive laughter.)

MAUI (turning to his tormentors, angrily) Laugh no more! I am Mauiokalani, son of Hina-of-the-Fire and of Ku, mighty and powerful. Now I shall make good my boast!

MAUIHOPE We have wasted enough time here. Let us leave the boaster to his struggle.

MAUKIIKII Yes. Gather up the nets. If we spend the whole day watching this child, there will be nothing to eat tonight.

(The BROTHERS start to collect the nets. The GIRLS prepare to go with them. Only MAILE does not move but continues to watch Maui.)

MAILE (after a pause) Wait. Let us see what he will do next.

(The group activity ceases. ALL once again look towards Maui.)

MAUI (holding out his hands with palms upturned, as if in supplication, chants)

MAUI

(chanting)
Oh, great Ku,
With your might,
Help your child!
Help your child!

(He raises his arms and pushes. The sky moves slightly.)

MAUIE

(excited) The sky has moved! See, it has moved!
(ALL murmur in disbelief.)

MAUI

(chanting)
Lend your strength
To my arms.
Let us lift!
Lift the sky!

(Again he thrusts upward and the sky responds.)

HINAOKEAHI

(calling encouragement) Thrust hard, my son! Not
for nothing were you called Maui-of-the-Sky!
(ALL now watch and murmur with great excitement.)

MAUI

(chanting)
Mighty Ku,
Grant your power.
We must strive,
Strive together!

(With the sky resting on his hands, which are now extended as high as possible over his head, MAUI

MAUI moves slowly upstage, ascending various levels in the process. Finally reaching the highest point, with his back to the audience, he gives a mighty thrust; the sky flies up out of sight, and the stage is flooded with light.)

MAUI (chanting, as the sky disappears)
 With our power
 And our might
 We have won!
 We have won!

(All the GIRLS except Maile run off calling, "Maui has lifted the sky!" "Come and see!" "Maui has raised the sky!" The BROTHERS look disbelieving and disgruntled. MAILE stands smiling up at Maui. MAUI stands on the height, hands on his hips, the picture of pride and self satisfaction. PEOPLE enter from all sides, accompanied by the GIRLS who are explaining with large gestures what has taken place. Slowly MAUI descends, swaggering. The PEOPLE move back in awe as he approaches.)

MAUI (coming to a stop before his brothers) Braggart, am I? Boaster? Dreamer? What have you to say now?

(The BROTHERS turn aside and make no answer.)

MAUI (approaching Maile) Am I a child?

MAILE (placing a lei around his shoulders) You are no child. You are Maui-of-the-Sky. Your deeds will be remembered as long as the islands float upon the sea.

HINAOKEAHI (approaching Maui) You have proven yourself a man. Come, now and rest. (She leads him to a mat before the house. MAUI sits. HINAOKEKAI brings him food.)

MAILE (to the girls) Show them all how it was done. Let your dancing tell the story of how Maui lifted the sky.

(The GIRLS dance a hula in which the raising of the sky is pantomimed. As the dance ends the lights dim, and the scrim is lowered.)

MEHANI (looking up at the sky, astonished) Do you think the trees really used to hold up the sky?

TUTE (smiling down at her) Do you still really believe that? My grandmother told me that's why the leaves are flat, from pressing up against the sky.

KIKI (springing to his feet) Look! I'm Maui. I'm lifting the sky! (He pretends to hold the sky over his head as he walks back and forth, straining under the weight and grunting with his effort. Finally he throws up his arms, grins, and points upward.) There! See how high I threw it!

(TUTU and Scene two)

(Lights come up in front of the scrim, disclosing a small, modern lei stand down-right. On a stool before the booth sits TUTU, a large Hawaiian woman in a bright muumuu, wearing a flower in her hair. She is at work on a flower lei. At her feet sit MAKANA and KEOKI, two children of about seven or eight, barefoot, wearing modern clothing. The children, like Tutu, speak with local inflection and pronunciation.)

TUTU (finishing the lei and the tale at the same time)

So Maui lifted the sky from the top of the trees to the top of the mountains. Then with the help of the great god Ku he sent it flying high in the air. And the sky stayed where Maui threw it and never fell down again.

MAKANA (looking up at the sky, doubtfully) Do you think the trees really used to hold up the sky?

TUTU (smiling down at her) So the old people believed. My grandmother told me that's why the leaves are flat, from pushing up against the sky.

KEOKI (springing to his feet) Look! I'm Maui. I'm lifting the sky! (He pretends to hold the sky over his head as Maui had done, stooping under its weight and grunting with the effort. Finally he throws up his arms, grins, and points skyward.) There! See how high I threw it!

(TUTU and MAKANA laugh.)

KEOKI (coming back and squatting again) Maui was strong all right. You'd have to be real strong to lift the sky.

MAKANA But he knew magic, too, didn't he, Tutu? It was the magic that helped him.

TUTU (nodding) Ae. He knew magic. Sometimes he changed himself into a bird to spy on his enemies and learn their secrets. And sometimes he turned bad people into dogs or rocks to punish them. But when people were in trouble they went to him, and he helped them with his magic.

KEOKI How did he learn the magic?

TUTU Some his mother taught him, for the old folks say she was a mighty magician, too, and some he learned from his grandmothers. They taught him many secrets and gave him a magic fishhook and a magic ax to help him with his tasks.

MAKANA (in wonder) A magic fishhook! I bet he could catch big fish with that.

TUTU (mysteriously) The very biggest.

KEOKI And what did he do with his magic ax?

TUTU Some people say he used it to chip off the rough corners of the sky and make it smooth and round. Others tell how it helped him in his fight with the Sun.

MAKANA (looking up at the sky) How could he fight the Sun?

KEOKI Why did he want to, anyway?

TUTU Bring more flowers. I must finish these leis.

(KEOKI goes behind the booth and returns with a basket of flowers.)

MAKANA We'll help you, Tutu, but go on with the story.

KEOKI Yes, tell us about Maui and the Sun.

(THEY begin working on leis. Lights dim on them and come up behind the scrim as the narration begins.)

TUTU When Maui had lifted the sky, life was better for the people. They could walk without bumping their heads, and the trade winds could blow freely, keeping the islands cool. But now there was new trouble. Because Maui had opened such a wide, smooth path, the Sun found that he could run swiftly across the sky. He climbed out of his mountain bed each morning, stretched his fiery legs, and moved with great strides, covering his daily journey in a few hours.

KEOKI How did that make trouble?

TUTU In many ways. Maui's mother worked hard every day beating tapa, but the finished cloth would not dry, because the day was too short. And Maui's brothers would just reach the reef to begin fishing, when the Sun would set, and they would have to paddle home in the dark.

(Lights are now out on the lei stand and up full behind the scrim, revealing HINAOKEAHI and HINAOKEKAI beating tapa before the house.)

MAKANA

So what did Maui do?

HINAOKEAHI

(as they spread the tapa out) Do you think perhaps

TUTU

He made a plan.

HINAOKEAHI

(TUTU and the CHILDREN exit in the dark. The lei stand is removed. The scrim is raised.)

The sun, he will be drifting back over the mountains, and it will be dark.

HINAOKEAHI

It is always the same. We work hard every day

moving our tapa, and the sun will not help us

dry it. How do you know that trouble he causes

by rising across the sky?

HINAOKEAHI

The sun does not care or care about us. (She goes back to work.)

HINAOKEAHI

How he should be made to care!

(The THREE BOYS enter with tapa and fishing lines.)

HINAOKEAHI

(addressing them) The sun causes you trouble, too.

The people here to work the reef, but before you

can spread your tapa, someone comes. My son's

you find the sun and tell him what his work is

going?

SEA

You speak foolishly, little wister. How shall we

find the sun? He does know where he lives.

SEA

And if we found him, how could we make him listen?

Scene three

- HINAOKEAHI (putting aside the tapa beater) There. It is finished. Help me spread it out to dry.
- HINAOKEKAI (as they spread the tapa out) Do you think perhaps it will dry today?
- HINAOKEAHI (looking at the sky) I fear not. The day is just begun, but already the Sun is overhead. In a little while, he will be climbing back over the mountain, and it will be dark.
- HINAOKEKAI It is always the same. We work hard every day beating our tapa, and the Sun will not help us dry it. Does he know how much trouble he causes by racing across the sky?
- HINAOKEAHI The Sun does not know or care about us. (She goes into the house.)
- HINAOKEKAI Then he should be made to care!
(The THREE BROTHERS enter with nets and fishing lines.)
- HINAOKEKAI (addressing them) The Sun causes you trouble, too. You paddle hard to reach the reef, but before you can spread your nets, darkness comes. Why don't you find the Sun and tell him what his speed is doing?
- MUA You speak foolishly, little sister. How shall we find the Sun? No man knows where he lives.
- HOPE And if we found him, how could we make him listen?

Scene three

HINAOKEAHI (putting aside the tapa beater) There. It is finished. Help me spread it out to dry.

HINAOKEKAI (as they spread the tapa out) Do you think perhaps it will dry today?

HINAOKEAHI (looking at the sky) I fear not. The day is just begun, but already the Sun is overhead. In a little while, he will be climbing back over the mountain, and it will be dark.

HINAOKEKAI It is always the same. We work hard every day beating our tapa, and the Sun will not help us dry it. Does he know how much trouble he causes by racing across the sky?

HINAOKEAHI The Sun does not know or care about us. (She goes into the house.)

HINAOKEKAI Then he should be made to care!

(The THREE BROTHERS enter with nets and fishing lines.)

HINAOKEKAI (addressing them) The Sun causes you trouble, too. You paddle hard to reach the reef, but before you can spread your nets, darkness comes. Why don't you find the Sun and tell him what his speed is doing?

MUA You speak foolishly, little sister. How shall we find the Sun? No man knows where he lives.

HOPE And if we found him, how could we make him listen?

(MAUI enters upstage and listens, unseen by the others.)

KIIKII The Sun is a god with great powers. He would laugh at us -- or perhaps kill us.

HINAOKEAHI You are a coward. If I were a man, I would find the Sun and make him go more slowly.

MUA Perhaps this is a task for the Sky-Lifter.

KIIKII (sarcastically) Yes. Tell the mighty hero to go seek out the Sun.

HOPE He is of no use here. He only struts and brags about his great deeds.

MUA If the Sun kills him, so much the better. He will not bother to seek food, but he is always on hand to eat it.

(The BROTHERS laugh.)

HINAOKEKAI (hotly) You are jealous, because he has proved himself stronger than you.

MUA (ignoring her, to his brothers) Why waste the day here? Come. (The BROTHERS exit.)

HINAOKEKAI (calling after them) Cowards! Jealous cowards! (MAUI comes downstage to her.)

HINAOKEKAI (turning and seeing Maui) You heard them?

MAUI (nodding) Ae. I heard.

HINAOKEKAI They hate you, because you did what they could not.

MAUI Let them hate me. I do not care.

(HINAOKEAHI enters from the house.)

HINAOKEAHI So you have come back. Where have you been?

MAUI (sitting, with an assumed nonchalance) I have been spying upon the Sun.

HINAOKEAHI (together) Where?

HINAOKEKAI

MAUI (enjoying the sensation he has caused) I have been spying upon the Sun. I have seen the road he takes when he climbs out of his mountain bed each morning, and I have watched the path he sets across the sky.

HINAOKEAHI (watching Maui fearfully) Why have you done this?

MAUI (with a glance at his sister) I have decided to go and have a talk with this heedless Sun.

HINAOKEKAI (joyfully) You will make him go more slowly, so that we can dry our tapa!

MAUI Ae. This is what we will discuss.

(MAUI and HINAOKEKAI laugh together.)

HINAOKEAHI (rebuking them) You talk like silly children. Do you think that the Sun will listen to your complaints?

MAUI If he will not, he must be made to listen.

HINAOKEAHI Rash boy! Because you have lifted the sky with the help of the great Ku, you think you can do anything. Fighting the Sun is quite another matter. He will kill you with one blow of his fiery arm.

MAUI I have watched the Sun. When he climbs out of bed, he is still sleepy. He moves slowly and clumsily. I shall catch him then -- before he has a chance to

MAUI catch me. (He jumps up and demonstrates his plan.)
 I shall set a snare for his feet; when he steps
 into it, I shall pull it tight and make him my
 prisoner. Then we shall talk, and if he will not
 listen, I shall tickle him with my spear.

(HINAOKEKAI claps her hands in excitement over the
 scheme, but HINAOKEAHI shakes her head slowly.)

HINAOKEAHI No ordinary rope will hold the Sun, and your spear
 will become ash in your hand when it touches the
 Sun.

MAUI (confidently) Don't worry. I shall find a noose
 that will hold and a weapon that will not burn.

HINAOKEAHI (slowly, unwillingly) If you are determined to
 attempt this rash deed, there is one who can help
 you -- if she will.

MAUI Who is that?

HINAOKEAHI Your grandmother. She lives alone high up on Hale-
 akala, the House of the Sun, and it is she who cooks
 the bananas which he eats for breakfast each day
 before he starts on his journey across the sky.

MAUI I will find her and learn the Sun's secrets.

HINAOKEAHI Wait! It is not so easy. She is proud of serving
 the Sun. She will not help you trap him unless
 you compel her to do so.

MAUI How can I do that?

- HINAOKEAHI You must climb the mountain at night and find your grandmother's house, which stands beside a great williwili tree. Hide behind the tree and wait until she comes to cook the Sun's breakfast. When she puts the bananas on the fire, snatch them away. But do not let her see you! When all the bananas are gone she will try to find the thief. Then you must tell her you belong to me and ask her to help you trap the Sun.
- MAUI I will start at once. It is a long climb to the House of the Sun. (He starts off.)
- HINAOKEAHI (stopping him) Wait! First you must make new ropes of strong coconut fiber. Then you must weave nooses.
- MAUI Coconut fiber is easy to get, but what shall I use for nooses?
- HINAOKEKAI (eagerly) My hair! (She holds it out towards him.) See how long it is, and how fine and strong. It will make good nooses.
- MAUI (hesitating) But I cannot take your hair.
- HINAOKEKAI Yes, take it! If I were a man I would go to help you fight the Sun. As I am only a woman, this is all I can do.
- HINAOKEAHI (as Maui still hesitates) Take it, my child. There is great power in your sister's gift. With it you may indeed ensnare the Sun.

(HINAOKEKAI exits into the house.)

HINAOKEAHI Go now and make your ropes. Choose the fiber carefully. Work with the greatest skill. Hina-of-the-Sea and I will braid the nooses.

(MAUI exits. The scrim comes down and the lights dim. HINAOKEKAI comes out of the house, carrying the hair. She sits beside her mother. The TWO WOMEN begin braiding, singing as they work. Gradually the lights go out.)

[Faint, illegible text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page]

Scene four

(Lights come up on the lei stand, disclosing TUTU and the CHILDREN as before.)

KEOKI (jumping up and making a grab for Makana's hair) I'm going to snare the Sun! Give me your hair for a noose!

MAKANA (squealing and ducking away from him, hiding behind Tutu) Stop! You can't have it!

KEOKI (making another grab) Stingy!

MAKANA (almost in tears) Tutu, make him stop.

TUTU (soothing her) Keoki's only teasing.

MAKANA (doubtfully) Are you sure?

KEOKI I don't want your old hair. Girls can't ever take a joke. What good are they anyway?

MAKANA (with spirit) They're just as good as boys. Maui couldn't have fought the Sun unless his mother and sister had helped him. Could he, Tutu?

TUTU Or without the magic ax he got from his grandmother.

KEOKI (considering) Well, I guess they come in handy sometimes.

MAKANA Tell us about the ax, Tutu. How did he get it?

(TUTU begins another lei. The CHILDREN resume their former positions. Light begins to dim as she starts the narration and comes up behind the scrim, disclosing a mountain peak against the pale grey dawn sky. A small grass hut stands right-center. Opposite it is the trunk of a tall wiliwili tree. Between

the house and the tree a small fire glows.)

TUTU

After Maui had twisted his coconut ropes and fastened the snares to them he said aloha to his mother and sister and started on his journey. He climbed all night, and just as it was beginning to get light he came to the wiliwili tree standing before his grandmother's house.

(The lights are now out on the stand. TUTU and the CHILDREN exit. MAUI enters left, carrying his coiled rope and a spear. He looks around, goes quietly to the door of the house and listens. Then he warms his hands at the fire, starts as if at a noise, looks towards the house, and hides behind the tree. After a pause KUPUNA comes out of the house, carrying bananas. As she enters, the scrim rises.)



... does not reply. So she goes into the house
 and brings out more fruit, which she places on
 the fire.)

THE SUN, LORD OF THE SKY

(Realizing that she intends to watch closely this
 ...)

Scene five

(KUPUNA places the bananas on the fire and turns towards the house. As soon as her back is turned, MAUI slips out from hiding, snatches the fruit and returns to his place. KUPUNA returns, sees the bananas gone and looks around on the ground for them.)

KUPUNA (shaking her head) How forgetful I am! My Lord the Sun will be coming soon for his breakfast, and his bananas will not be cooked. (Muttering to herself she goes into the house, returning after a moment with more bananas, which she puts on the fire.)

(As she turns away MAUI again steals the fruit and goes back into hiding. KUPUNA returns to look at the bananas and finds them gone. She looks around suspiciously but sees nothing.)

KUPUNA Someone is tricking me. Twice have I started to cook the bananas for my Lord the Sun, and twice have they disappeared. Who has taken them? (She waits for a moment hoping for an answer, but MAUI does not reply. So she goes into the house and brings out more fruit, which she places on the fire.)

(Realizing that she intends to watch closely this

MAUI time, MAUI picks up a pebble and throws it over Kupuna's head. SHE turns at the sound.)

KUPUNA Who is there?
(MAUI slips out, snatches the fruit and disappears.)

KUPUNA (turning back and finding the fruit gone) Auwe!
What am I to do? Someone has stolen all of the bananas of my Lord the Sun. The sky is growing light. Soon my master will arrive and demand his breakfast, and I shall have nothing to give him. He will be very angry. What am I to do? What am I to do? (She wrings her hands in grief.)

MAUI (stepping out of hiding) I have taken the bananas.

KUPUNA (looking at him in amazement) Who are you? How have you come to this place? No man dares to venture here.

MAUI (drawing himself up proudly) I am Maui-of-the-Sky, and I belong to Hina-of-the-Fire. I have come to meet the Sun and persuade him to go more slowly across the sky, so that my mother may dry her tapa, and my brothers may bring the fish home from the reefs, and the crops that we plant may have light enough to grow tall and strong.

KUPUNA (shaking her head) You are rash to have come here, my child. Give me back the fruit and go quickly before the Sun arrives. If he finds you here he will surely kill you.

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KUPUNA (shaking her head) You are rash to have come here, my child. Give me back the fruit and go quickly before the Sun arrives. If he finds you here he will surely kill you.

MAUI (stubbornly) I have boasted that I will slow the Sun, and I must make good my boast. I have lifted the sky to prove my strength. I have climbed up here in the dark of night to prove my courage. I have twisted strong ropes of coconut fiber, and my sister Hina-of-the-Sea has given me the hair from her head to make nooses to snare the Sun. I shall give you back your bananas, if you will help me with my task.

KUPUNA (looking at him closely) I have heard much of the child of Hina. It may be that you can trap the Sun with your nooses. But how will you overcome him, when he is caught?

MAUI I shall stick him with my pointed spear.

KUPUNA (shaking her head) Your spear would be useless against my Lord the Sun. If you are determined to attempt this task, and if you are really the child of Hina-of-the-Fire, it seems that I must help you.

MAUI (going behind the tree and bringing out the bananas) Here are your bananas. Tell me what I must do to trap the Sun.

KUPUNA (pointing towards the mountain top) Soon you will see him climbing over the wall of his house. Then he will come down the path and stop here to eat his bananas, as he does every morning. You must hide

behind the tree with your noose ready. Then when he stoops to take up the fruit, slip out and throw the noose over his head. If you move quickly and quietly, you may succeed before he realizes you are here.

MAUI (looking about him on the ground) But I must have a weapon. You say my spear is of no use.

KUPUNA I shall give you a magic ax. It is made of stone, so the fire of the Sun cannot harm it. (She looks at the sky over the mountain, which is beginning to brighten.) Hide quickly! My Lord the Sun is coming! (She gives him a little push in the direction of the tree and hurries into the house, returning with the ax.)

MAUI Mahalo. (He takes the ax and swings it a few times.) Now I shall show this heedless Sun who is the better fighter.

KUPUNA (pushing him again) Make ready. He is coming! He is coming! (She scuttles into the house. MAUI thrusts the ax into his malo and hides behind the tree, taking up his rope and holding it ready in his hand.)

(The sky brightens. After a pause the Sun's hands appear over the rim of the mountain, followed by his head. As his head appears, the stage is flooded with light. The SUN climbs slowly over the rim, rubbing his eyes and stretching as if just awakening. He starts down the path. When he reaches the fire he

stoops, his back towards Maui, to take up a banana. MAUI quickly darts out and places the noose over his head. As the SUN straightens, the noose slides down around his body.)

SUN (regarding the noose in amazement) What is this?

MAUI You are caught in my noose. You are my prisoner! (He brandishes the ax.)

SUN Am I indeed? We shall soon see! (He begins to struggle, but the rope holds him.)

MAUI You cannot escape! There is magic in the noose. If you wish to be free, you must promise to go more slowly across the sky each day.

SUN (angrily) Who are you, puny boy, to tell me what I must do?

MAUI (proudly) I am Maui-of-the-Sky, child of Hina-of-the-Fire. It is I who lifted the sky and gave the winds room to blow and made you a smooth, straight path on which to travel.

SUN So that was you! I am grateful. We should be friends. Take off the rope and let us talk things over. (MAUI removes the noose, and immediately the Sun sets upon him, attempting to entangle him in a wrestling hold.)

MAUI (springing back and flourishing his ax) So that is how you mean to make friends! If you wish to fight, I am ready.

SUN Foolish boy, you are no match for me. Go back to your people and tell them how I spared your life.

MAUI When I have conquered you, I'll go, and not before.
(MAUI closes in, swinging the ax.)

SUN So you wish to die. Come then.
(THEY fight. The fight should be performed as a modern dance or a stylized one, similar to the Chinese warrior dances. At the close of the dance MAUI forces the Sun to his knees, drops the noose over his head again, and winds the rope around his body, making him fast. He then stands over him threateningly with the ax raised.)

SUN Spare my life, I beg you. Do not kill me!

MAUI I have beaten you! I have won!

SUN Ah, you have won, but if you kill me, what will happen to the earth? There will be no more light but only darkness.

MAUI (considering) That is true. Let us make a bargain. I will spare your life, if you will promise to go more slowly across the sky, so my mother can dry her tapa, and my brothers can bring the fish home from the reefs, and the crops will have light enough to grow strong and tall.

SUN You have bruised and lamed me so with the blows of your ax, it will be all I can do to creep across the sky for many months to come.

MAUI You promise, then?

SUN I promise. For six months I shall go slowly as you wish. Then you must give me leave to stretch my legs a bit for six months more.

MAUI I agree. (He removes the rope. The SUN gets slowly and painfully to his feet.) And so you will not forget your promise, I shall leave my rope hanging from the mountain rim where you will see it daily as you come and go.

(MAUI ascends the path and hangs the rope upon the rim. The SUN watches sadly then exits slowly. MAUI descends and looks after the Sun, standing proudly as he stood after raising the sky.)

MAUI (chanting)

Behold me now!

Maui-o-ka-Lani,
 Lifter-of-the-Sky,
 Snarer-of-the-Sun!

These great deeds
 Who can equal?

Let him try!

Let him try!

(He laughs loudly and holds his pose as the curtain falls.)

ACT II

Scene one

(The curtain rises on a darkened stage. TUTU's voice is heard completing the tale.)

TUTU So Maui hung his rope upon the mountain top, and there you can see it to this day when the mists rise from the valley in the early morning and in the evening. And the Sun has never forgotten his promise. Each year in summer he moves slowly across the sky, and the days are long, and the people can work and play. They can fish and grow crops without worrying that the night will come too soon. But in winter the Sun stretches his legs and hurries along on his journey, so the days are shorter, and the nights are long and cool.

(Lights come up behind the scrim, disclosing a luau scene, with Maui as guest of honor. In the foreground girls are dancing a hula. MAILEAALA and HINAOKEKAI serve the seated men.)

TUTU And Maui returned to his people and told them what he had done. And when they saw that the Sun indeed went slowly across the sky, they hailed the hero and gave him great honor.

(As the dance ends, the scrim is raised.)

MAILE (pouring a drink for Mauimua) What do you think of your little brother now?

MUA (good-naturedly) He is a mighty hero. None can deny it.

HOPE (to Kiikii) But no fisherman!

(HOPE and KIIKII laugh.)

HINAOKEKAI (to Hope) Maui-of-the-Sky has more important things to do. He can afford to leave such tasks to you.

MUA (to Hinaokekai) Don't be angry, little sister. Do we not agree that he is a great hero? Does it matter that he is a poor fisherman?

MAUI (to Mua) Poor fisherman indeed! How many times have I returned from fishing with a larger catch than you?

MUA Rarely -- and then only when you succeeded in stealing the fish from my hook!

(MAUI springs up and attacks Mua. THEY wrestle.

HOPE and KIIKII urge them on. The GIRLS scream and scamper for safety. HINAOKEAHI comes out of the house with a bowl of fruit, sees the fight and approaches the two.)

HINAOKEAHI Stop it, I say! Stop your fighting! (To the other two brothers) Separate them.

(Reluctantly HOPE and KIIKII obey, pulling Maui and Mua apart.)

HINAOKEAHI (to the fighters) What a way to behave! Here we are feasting to celebrate Maui-of-the-Sky's victory, and you spoil it with your quarreling.

(MAUI and MUA glare at each other for a moment, then turn away, rather sheepishly.)

HINAOKEAHI (to the men) Sit down, all of you. Let the feast continue. (to the girls) Dance. Entertain them.

Make them forget their quarrel.

(The MEN eat. The GIRLS dance again. When they have finished, the women remove the food.)

MUA (rising and stretching) We have eaten well, now let us go and sleep.

(The MEN rise and prepare to leave.)

HOPE (turning to Maui) If you are such a great fisherman, why not come with us tomorrow and prove your skill?

KIIKII Yes, let us have a contest to discover who is best.

MAUI I agree. Tomorrow at dawn we shall paddle to the fishing grounds, and I wager that I shall catch the biggest fish.

MUA And if you do not?

MAUI You shall have my ax -- the gift of my grandmother who serves the Sun.

MUA Done! Tomorrow we shall see who is the greatest fisherman.

(MUA, HOPE, and KIIKII exit. MAUI walks back and forth in deep thought. After a pause HINAOKEAHI comes out of the house.)

HINAOKEAHI What is troubling you, my son?

MAUI I have wagered with my brothers that I will catch a larger fish than they tomorrow, and I am planning what I must do.

HINAOKEAHI (shaking her head) Why can you never leave well enough alone? You have performed great deeds that your brothers can never hope to equal. Why must you challenge them in this, too?

MAUI (in an injured tone) They challenged me.

HINAOKEAHI But you agreed.

MAUI Of course. What else could I do?

HINAOKEAHI (with a rueful smile) Nothing, I suppose. Once having proved yourself a hero, you must go on proving it.

MAUI But they are better fishermen. They know where the fish are to be caught and the secrets of catching them. I must find a way to trick them, if I am to win. You helped me when I went to battle with the Sun. Can you not help me now?

HINAOKEAHI (slowly) Perhaps I can. From your father in the secret land beneath the earth, I once got a magic hook, Manaiakalani. I will give you this, and it may be that with it you will bring up from the depths of the sea such a fish as has never been caught before.

MAUI (throwing back his head and laughing in delight) With the Hook-Attached-to-the-Heavens, I shall indeed catch a fish that shall cause the eyes of

MAUI these brothers of mine to jump from their heads!
Fetch it for me, quickly!

(HINAOKEAHI goes into the house. MAUI swaggers about, pretending to cast and pull in a line, extremely pleased with himself.)

MAUI (chanting)

O my sire,
With your hook
From the heaven
I shall catch
Mighty fish!
Mighty fish!

(HINAOKEAHI returns with a large fishhook of bone or mother of pearl, which she gives to Maui.)

HINAOKEAHI Hide the hook carefully and do not let your brothers see it. Tomorrow paddle to the fishing grounds but do not use this hook. Let them catch their fish and mock you if they wish. Then when they have finished make them head for the deep sea. If you notice something floating on the water, take it into the canoe. Do not forget.

MAUI (concealing the hook in his malo) What kind of object shall I look for? How will I recognize it?

HINAOKEAHI I cannot tell you now, but you must watch the sea carefully, for your success may depend upon it.

MAUI I shall watch.

HINAOKEAHI And when you feel the fish on your line, bid your brothers paddle with all their strength, and do not look to see what you have caught until you have come safe to shore.

MAUI I promise.

HINAOKEAHI It is growing late. Go now and sleep. Tomorrow you shall prove yourself a mighty fisherman indeed.

(MAUI goes. The stage darkens. HINAOKEAHI watches him leave, raises her hands in an attitude of supplication to the gods and stands thus as the scrim descends and the lights go out.)

"These fish are too small." They looked at him and would have looked for food, but that incident that he had just done he had no longer the same. "I promise you that in the place I know of there are fish that are good to eat." "They will," agreed Maui. He and his brothers went to the place you told him and all were as happy as if they had you told to catch a fish as large as yours." So they paddled for out of sight of land, and there they found their water.

Maui went on behind the scrim, indicating the whopper came with the first creature to catch.

Maui looked the sea in search of the object the mother had promised him, and he saw a ball of

Scene two

(As the lights go out, TUTU'S voice picks up the narration.)

TUTU So on the following morning the brothers set out as soon as it was light and came to the fishing grounds. Here Maui Mua and Maui Hope and Maui Kiikii cast out their lines and began to pull in fish. But Mauiokalani kept his magic hook hidden and pretended to have no interest in the sport. At last the canoe was nearly filled with fine, large fish, and Maui's brothers wished to return to the shore, but Maui refused. "Paddle farther out," he demanded, "These fish are too small." They laughed at him and would have headed for land, but Maui insisted. "Let us go far out where we can no longer see the land. I promise you that in the place I know of there are such fish as you have never seen." "Very well," agreed Maui Mua at last, "We will go where you wish; then you will have no excuse to offer when you fail to catch a fish as large as ours." So they paddled far out of sight of land, and there they dropped their anchor.

(Light comes up behind the scrim, disclosing the outrigger canoe with the four brothers up-left-center.)

TUTU And Maui scanned the sea in search of the object his mother had promised him, and he saw a bailer

TUTU floating near the canoe. And Maui reached out and took the bailer and placed it in the bottom of the boat.

(MAUI reaches over the upstage side of the canoe, takes up a gourd or wooden bailer and places it in the canoe. As he does so, HINAOKEKAI, who has been concealed in the bottom of the canoe, sits up in the position in which the bailer has been placed. The FOUR men register astonishment.)

TUTU And behold, when he placed the bailer in the canoe it turned into his sister Hina-of-the-Sea, and her brothers greeted her with cries of wonder.

(The lights come up full and the scrim is raised if desired. Note: it might well be more effective to play the entire scene behind the scrim to add to the illusion of the sea.)

FOUR MAUIS Hinaokekai! Little Sister! How did you come here?

HINAOKEKAI (calmly) My mother sent me here to help Mauiokalani.

MAUI (astonished) Help me? How?

HINAOKEKAI You shall soon see. You are Maui-of-the-Sky and have special power in things of the heavens, but I am Hina-of-the-Sea, and this is my province. Attach the hook to your line.

(MAUI takes the hook from his malo and makes it fast to his line.)

- MAUI I have done so.
- HINAOKEKAI Give it to me. I myself will be the bait. I shall take the hook down into the depths of the sea. When you feel the line grow taut, paddle as hard as you can for the shore.
- (HINAOKEKAI slips over the upstage side of the canoe, holding to the edge with her hands.)
- MAUI (trying to pull her back) Wait! You can't do that! What will happen to you?
- HINAOKEKAI Don't worry. I shall reach land before you and be on hand to see your catch.
- (HINAOKEKAI disappears. The FOUR MAUIS look down into the water, speechless with astonishment. After a pause there is a tug on Maui's line.)
- MAUI (shouting) The line! The line! See, it is moving! Paddle! Paddle as hard as you can!
- (The FOUR MAUIS set to work with their paddles. The canoe moves slowly right.)
- MUA (speaking with great difficulty because of the strain of the work) Your fish must be a big one.
- HOPE (similarly) We are paddling with all our strength, yet the canoe barely moves.
- MAUI (frantically) Harder! Harder! Don't look back! Soon it will become easier!
- (THEY redouble their efforts. The canoe moves farther right. The outline of an island with a mountain
- (The lights go out and the scene is changed.)

on it appears from the left. HINAOKEKAI sits upon it, smiling proudly. After the island has come into view, KIIKII, who is in the stern of the canoe, glances back over his shoulder, sees the land following them, drops his paddle, and lets out a scream.)

KIIKII

Look behind you!

(The BROTHERS look and are terrified. THEY start paddling harder than ever in an effort to escape, but the canoe does not move.)

HOPE

The earth is following us. What shall we do?

MAUI

(trying vainly to calm them) Don't be afraid. It is only the fish I promised you.

MUA

(in fury) Fish indeed! Are you a demon determined to destroy us all? (to Kiikii) Cut the line!

MAUI

(attempting to stop Kiikii) No! No! Wait! The fish will be lost!

(MUA and HOPE restrain Maui. KIIKII leans over the stern and cuts the line. The island comes to a stop. HINAOKEKAI springs to her feet in dismay.)

HINAOKEKAI

(calling to them) You have lost the fish!

MAUI

(bitterly) Ae. These cowards have cut the line.

HINAOKEKAI

(sadly) And it was such a beautiful fish. (She brightens.) But perhaps it is not completely lost. It is standing firm upon the water. Perhaps the great gods will let it stay to remind all men that Mauiokalani is indeed a famous fisherman.

(The lights go out and the scrim is lowered.)

Scene three

(Lights come up on the lei stand with TUTU and the CHILDREN seated as before.)

MAKANA (drawing a long breath) And what happened to the fish, Tutu?

KEOKI Did it sink back into the water again?

TUTU According to my grandmother, we are sitting on it right now.

MAKANA (jumping up and looking around) Where? I don't see it.

KEOKI What do you mean, Tutu?

TUTU Maui's fish was an island. The old folks think it was our island. The story goes that if Maui had been able to bring his fish to shore, all of the islands would have been one, but when his brothers cut the line the land broke apart, and so we have seven islands in Hawaii nei instead of only one.

KEOKI What did Maui do after that?

TUTU Many things. He invented kites and carried the winds fastened in a gourd so he could fly them whenever he wanted.

KEOKI That must have been fun. I like flying kites.

TUTU And he created dogs by turning his greedy brother-in-law into one.

MAKANA Better watch out, Keoki!

TUTU And he found the secret of making fire.

KEOKI

Didn't the people have any fire?

MAKANA

How did they cook their dinner?

TUTU

In Maui's time the people had no fire. They ate raw fish and raw roots, and they shivered with cold in the winter nights. The gods had given them fire in the beginning, and it had been kept safely for many years in the heart of the volcanos. But somehow it had all been lost. The old people say that Maui was at fault, for he had put out the cooking fires of the people and then made Mahuia, the fire goddess, so angry that she had tried to destroy the earth in flames. To stop the fire Maui had called upon the great gods for rain, and the storms had put out all the fires in the world.

MAKANA

(with a look at Keoki) It served him right. Boys think they're so smart.

KEOKI

But Maui was smart! He got it back! Didn't he, Tutu?

TUTU

When Mahuia found herself caught in the rain, she hurried back to her home under the earth. As she was running away, she saved a few sparks and hid them in the trees for safekeeping, but no one knew which trees concealed the seeds of fire. Only the mudhen, the sacred alae, knew. They were the guardians of the fire.

(Lights come up behind the scrim, disclosing a

clearing in the forest. A flock of alae are tending a small fire. /The alae are girls dressed in black and brown costumes suggesting birds. Their head covering is so arranged that when Maui marks them with fire a red streak appears down the center of their heads./)

ALAE

(chanting, as they dance around the fire)

Fire is ours!

Only ours!

Let man suffer;

Foolish man!

(At the end of the dance they scatter the fire and "fly" into the woods.)

TUTU

(speaking in the dark) And the alae were proud of their task and very wary. Whenever a man came near their fire, they quickly put it out, so that no one might learn the secret.

(TUTU and the CHILDREN exit in the dark.)

(MAUI enters left, sees the scattered remains of the fire and shows anger, shaking his fist in the direction of the forest. MAILEAALA enters left, as if looking for Maui. As she approaches him, the scrim is raised.)



MAILEAALA

Scene four

MAILE (crossly) Here you are, lazy good-for-nothing. Why do you waste your time roaming about the forest, when we have no fish to eat?

MAUI I have been trying to discover where the alae build their fires. (He points to the scattered sticks.)

MAILE See, they have been here.

MAILE So they have, but what difference does it make? They have gone, and they have taken good care that no spark remains.

MAUI But don't you understand? This is where they make their fire and cook their food. If I hide here until they come back, I may be able to snatch up a burning stick, and we will have fire again.

MAILE (rather wistfully) It would be nice to have cooked food again and to be able to keep the children warm when the nights grow cold.

MAUI Ae. It would be good. (He prepares to hide behind a tree.) I shall stay here until they return.

MAILE (angry again) They may never return. The alae are clever. They will know you are here and build their fire elsewhere.

MAUI (throwing out his chest) You forget -- I am Maui-of-the-Sky, Lifter-of-the-Heavens, Snarer-of-the-Sun, Fisherman-of-Islands.

MAILE Ae, but that was long ago. You are also Maui-the-Fire-Destroyer.

MAUI (on the defensive) That was not my fault. I had to call upon the gods for rain; I could not let Mahuia destroy the earth with her fire.

MAILE No, but you need not have angered her in the first place. (Maui has, for once, no answer.)

MAILE (turning away) Stay if you wish; it may be that the alae will return. Yet even if they do, I have no great faith that you will succeed. (She goes.) (MAUI walks about, seeking a hiding place, then conceals himself down-right in such a manner that he is in view of the audience but is concealed from the site of the fire by a tree.)

MAUI (raising his arms and chanting softly)

O great Ku,

Here I stand.

Look on me!

Look on me!

Send th'alae

With their fire

To this place!

To this place!

Hear your son.

Help me gain

Seeds of fire!

Seeds of fire!

(The ALAE appear from the forest with wood and bananas. They place the wood on the ground and apparently make fire by rubbing two sticks together.)

ALAE-IKI (who is the fire maker) There, my sisters, it is done. Place the fruit upon the fire. Soon we will have our roast bananas.

(MAUI springs out from behind a tree and attempts to seize a brand from the fire. The BIRDS are quicker than he, scattering the twigs and stamping out the fire, while at the same time managing to elude Maui's grasp.)

ALL ALAE Look out! Scatter the fire! It is Maui! Snatch the fruit! Fly quickly! ad lib.
(The BIRDS "fly" off, carrying the bananas. MAUI pursues them in vain, then returns dejectedly and sits on the ground.)

MUA (calling, off left) Mauiokalani! Where are you?

HOPE (calling, off left) Where is the famous bird catcher?

KIIKII (calling, off left) Answer, Little Brother! Where are you?

(The THREE BROTHERS enter, carrying nets. MAUI pays no attention.)

HOPE (seeing Maui) Here he is!

MUA Why so sad?

KIIKII Have the birds forsaken the forest?

MAUI The birds have come. (He indicates the scattered remains of the fire.) And gone!

(The THREE BROTHERS laugh.)

MUA (putting his arm around Maui's shoulders) Never mind, Little Brother. Some day they may return.

HOPE Meanwhile we shall continue to eat our fish raw.
(MAUI looks at the nets in their hands and is struck with an idea. He springs up and grasps one of the nets.)

MAUI (excited) Many years ago I snared the Sun. Perhaps the trick will work once more.

KIIKII Have you lost your wits?

MAUI No. I have found them at last. (He looks around cautiously and lowers his voice.) The alae may be watching. Let us pretend to go fishing. When we reach the shore, I shall hide again. Roll up a mat and put it in my place. Then paddle for the reef and fish. If the alae think we are safely out of the way, they may grow careless. Then we will see if I have remembered my old tricks.

MUA (clapping him on the back) Well spoken. Your wife can use some fish. Why waste more time on these silly birds?

HOPE Come. The day will be over before we get to the reef.

MAUI You are right. Let us go.

(The FOUR MAUIS exit right. After a pause the ALAE peer around the trees, looking and listening.

MAUI When they are convinced the Maui's are really gone,
 they come into the open and once again build their
 fire.)
 ALAE-IKI (as they work) Stupid man. Does he think he can
 trick us so easily?
 (The ALAE "twitter" their disapproval of Maui.)
 ALAE-NUI enters right. The BIRDS look at her
 questioningly.)
 ALAE-NUI They have gone to fish. All four of the sons of
 Hina have paddled away in their canoe. I counted
 them myself.
 ALAE-IKI Good. Then we can enjoy ourselves and our food
 without fear.
 (The BIRDS repeat their song and chant. Meanwhile,
 MAUI, carrying one of the nets in his right hand,
 slips quietly in from the right and conceals himself
 again behind the tree.)
 ALAE-IKI (eating a banana) We are too clever for the foolish
 sons of Hina. Let them eat their fish raw. Why
 should we share our fire with them?
 (The ALAE twitter agreement. Suddenly MAUI springs
 out from hiding and casts his net over Alae-iki, who
 struggles in vain to free herself. The other ALAE
 scatter the fire and flee as before.)
 MAUI (triumphantly) Now we shall see who is clever.
 ALAE-IKI (struggling) Let me go! Let me go!

MAUI (grasping her neck) Stingy bird, you deserve to die for keeping the seeds of fire from mankind.

ALAE-IKI (gasping) We did not want to. Mahuia made us promise to keep the secret.

MAUI (shaking her) Then let Mahuia save you now!

ALAE-IKI If you kill me, the secret of the fire will die, too.

MAUI (pausing to consider) Another bird will tell me.

ALAE-IKI Only I know the secret. I am the Guardian of the Fire.

MAUI Tell me then, if you wish to live.

ALAE-IKI If I tell you, will you free me?

MAUI (grudgingly) Ae... If you tell the truth.

ALAE-IKI You have seen us cooking bananas. If you rub the stalks together you will find fire. There! I have told you. Let me go!

MAUI When I have proved the truth. (Keeping a tight grip on the net, MAUI stoops and picks up the banana stalk. He rubs it briskly, but the stalk only breaks in his grasp.)

MAUI (throwing down the stalk and grasping the alae's neck again) You lied! There is no fire in the banana. Now you shall surely die!

ALAE-IKI (struggling, gasping) Do not kill me! I shall tell you the truth. (MAUI stops his throttling and eyes her suspiciously.)

ALAE-IKI Go to the shore where the reeds are growing. Rub them briskly. Fire hides there.

- (MAUI goes down-right, still holding the net tightly.
- ALAE-IKI redoubles her efforts to escape. MAUI plucks two reeds and attempts to rub them together. They snap in his hands, and only water emerges.)
- ALAE-IKI (gleeful, reckless) Silly creature! How could fire be hidden in wet, brittle reeds?
- MAUI (enraged, grasps the bird and shakes her hard) So you thought you could trick me! For that you shall die!
- ALAE-IKI (gasping, trying to put on a bold face) Then you will never get fire!
- MAUI I do not care. It will be worth eating raw fish all my life to be rid of you! (He throttles her again.)
- ALAE-IKI (frightened, choking) Spare me! I will tell you! (MAUI loosens his grip and waits.)
- ALAE-IKI (slowly, unwillingly) The hau tree and the sandalwood hold the seeds of fire. (She points to the grove.) You will find them there.
- (MAUI goes up stage as she has indicated, dragging her with him. ALAE-IKI no longer struggles; the spirit has gone out of her. As they enter the grove, the other ALAE appear, twittering among themselves in great agitation. Concealed by the birds and the trees, MAUI lights a torch.)
- MAUI (reappearing with torch blazing) Ahhh! I have won!

MAUI

I have found the secret. The seeds of fire are hidden in the trees. By rubbing the wood I can bring the fire to life! (He removes the net from Alae-iki, but before releasing her he rubs the torch over her head.) And here is something else I can rub! From this day you and your children will bear the mark of the fire. (He quickly runs the torch over the heads of the other alae, who drop to their knees, covering their heads with their hands and twittering with sorrow. When they remove their hands, a red streak appears down the center of each head. MAUI laughs aloud at the sight.)

MAUI

And when your children ask why you wear this red crest, tell them it was the gift of Maui-of-the-Sky in return for the gift of fire!

(The ALAE rise and "fly" back into the forest. MAUI stands proudly, holding the torch aloft.)

MAUI

(chanting, triumphantly)

I am Maui,

Lifter-of-the-Sky,

Snarer-of-the-Sun,

Fisherman-of-Islands,

Bringer-of-Fire!

Long will men

Tell my tale,

Chant my praises,

MAUI

Sing my glory!

My great deeds

Who can equal?

Let him try!

Let him try!

(MAUI holds his position as the scrim is lowered
and the curtain falls.)

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