

Nā Kaona o Ke Aloha o Ka Haku: The Hidden Meanings of The Queen's Prayer

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Queen Liliuokalani was originally named Lydia Kamakaeha also called Lydia Liliuokalani Paki or Liliu Kamakaeha. Lydia Lili'u Loloku Walania Kamaka'eha was born September 2, 1838 in Honolulu, Hawaii and her natural parents were **Analea Keohokālole** and **Caesar Kapa'akea**, she was **hānai** (informally adopted) at birth by **Abner Pākī** and **Laura Kōnia** and raised with their daughter **Bernice Pauahi Bishop** and died on November 11, 1917. She was the first and only reigning Hawaiian Queen and the last Hawaiian Sovereign Monarch to govern the islands, which were annexed by the United States in 1898. The illegal overthrow of the Hawaiian kingdom was one of the most monumental events in our Hawaiian history = Our kingdom illegally seized, our Queen Liliuokalani imprisoned and our way of life forever changed. It is believed to be one of her many attempts to rebel against the oppressive factions while trying to maintain her composure as royalty. When analyzing Hawaiian music, the context is critical and one must be aware of the kaona, or hidden meanings.

" The Queen's Prayer " or " Ke Aloha o Ka Haku " written as she found solace from her Book of Commons, giving her the inspiration for this song. She wrote it for her niece Princess Ka'iulani, her heir apparent to the throne, which gives the feeling that the Queen hoped they would be able to find the strength to forgive their adversaries for denying them their birthright as Monarchs.

In the song, it's clear she makes specific reference to being imprisoned, yet she is still trying to find solace in a higher power. She does not want to be caught up with all of the evil and injustice that is happening around her. Instead, she believes this higher power should look upon these

people, forgive their sins and cleanse them. The Queen embraced the religious beliefs of those that held her captive. Ironically, it was this religion that provided the rationale used to undermine much of the Hawaiian culture and ultimately bring her rule to an end, shifting the balance of power and resulting in the domination by the United States.

Hawaiian words can have several meanings when interpreting them within different contexts. Years after the song's release, the Queen's enemies began to misconstrue its possible meanings. "Surely no one could read double meanings of sensuality, heresy, lasciviousness or lewdness into this song." Yet in the years that followed it was so construed. Could her enemies have had ulterior motives? Missionaries or those in the provisional government may have used tactics such as these to diminish the Queen's character in the eyes of her people. However, the Queen was a strong and very smart woman. She continued to protest the illegality of the seizure of her Hawaiian Kingdom.

In this song she calls out her enemies. First, those who had overthrown the government as missionaries instead of the provisional government. It was as if she was specifically criticizing the religious faction leaving her disgusted by how these missionaries or people of God had treated her. She had brazenly defied them all in just one simple sentence.

The Queen disheartened by what was happening all around her wrote in her diary " I do not feel like going to church - perhaps never more. No - It makes me feel as if I would not like to do any thing more for Churches " due to my mistreatment. On the surface, the song seems to be one of piety and devotion, a plea for mercy and strength for herself and the Princess to act with compassion towards her adversaries. But, when one considers the context of her

imprisonment and her torment, it appears to be much more a song of protest.

*I leave you with Queen Liliuokalani's famous quote =
"Never cease to act because you fear you may fail. The true secret is to know your own worth; it will carry you through many dangers."*

MAHALO for allowing me to share of our last reigning Hawaiian Monarch, Queen Liliuokalani.
Francene "Fran" Aaron

The Queen's Prayer (Ke Aloha O Ka Haku)

'O kou aloha no
A `o Kou `oia `i`o.

Aia i ka lani
He hemolelo holi

Ko`u noho mihi `ana.
`O `oe ku`u lama

A pa`ahao `ia
Kou nani ko`u ko`o

Mai nânâ `ino`ino
Akä e huikala

Nâ hewa o kana
A ma`ema`e nô

No laila e ka Haku
Kô mâkou maluhia

Ma lalo o kou `êheu
A mau loa aku nô

`Âmene

*Your loving mercy
And your truth*

*Is as high as Heaven
So perfect*

*I live in sorrow
You are my light*

*Imprisoned
Your glory, my support*

*Behold not with malevolence The sins of man
But forgive And cleanse*

*And so, o Lord Protect us beneath your wings
And let peace be our portion. Now and forever more.*

Amen