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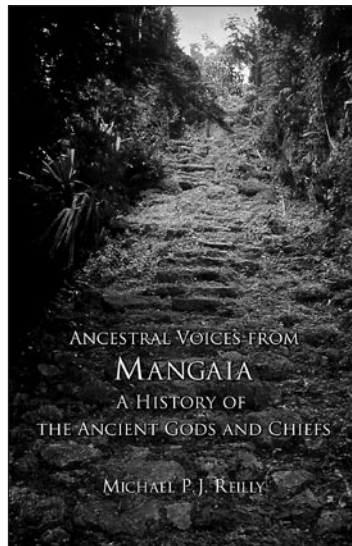
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ANCESTRAL VOICES OF MANGAIA

A HISTORY OF THE ANCIENT GODS AND CHIEFS



MICHAEL P.J. REILLY

Ancestral Voices discusses the stories told about the Island's ancient gods and ruling chiefs from its creation origins up to the early mission period in the 19th century. The stories of the gods describe encounters with the domain of *tuārangi* 'spirit beings', among whom are included the Island's principal gods, visitors from other Pacific Islands and European explorers such as James Cook. The Island's ruling chiefs controlled access to the economic and spiritual resources of Māngaia. Their stories relate the struggles for dominance over the lands and peoples, and the ritual sacrifices that were performed to ensure recognition of that chiefly rule by the gods.

Ancestral Voices transcribes and interprets a series of indigenous historical texts, including proverbs, songs and narratives, as told by generations of Māngaian scholars, notably the tribal historian, Mamae, and by outsider scholars, particularly, the missionary, William Wyatt Gill, and Te Rangi Hiroa.

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