

## THE LITTLE THINGS

Do not despise these small beginnings, for the Lord rejoices to see the work begin. – Zechariah 4:10



Centuries ago, the high-ranking men of the *ali'i* (chiefs) wore a Hawaiian feather helmet called, a *mahiole*. They were constructed of the aerial roots of the *'ie'ie* vine and woven into a basket type framework which gave a light and strong body. They were perfectly fitted to an individual and protected the head, the most sacred part of the body. The *mahiole* was decorated with bird feathers, a documentation of the exquisite feather work techniques of our *kupuna* (elders).

These feathers were obtained from local birds (*manu*). The black and yellow feathers came from a bird called, the *O'o*. The *Mamo* provided black feathers and both the *'Iwi* and *'Apapane* provided the distinctive red feathers. These birds were never harmed or killed but caught by trained bird catchers. These were skilled men that could imitate the call of a bird and lure them close to their hiding places. Nets were also used as well as *pua* (flowers) to entice and attract the *manu*. Once it drew near and thrust its bill into the flower, the birdman would capture it. After a few feathers were harvested, the *manu* was then, released. Each *mahiole* required hundreds of feathers. Once collected, they were bundled and tied together in small portions before being fastened onto the framework. A net of *olona* fibers were laid over the framework, then feathers would be placed and tied close to each other to form a uniform covering of the surface of the helmet. Starting from the bottom, each new row concealed the quills of the feather below. The *mahiole* represented the political status of male chiefs and their various seats of authority.

Like the intricacies of feather gathering and the production of a *mahiole*, the choices we make in our lives add up to “crafting” the entirety of a story and power of an impact. As you and I travel on the pathway that God has placed us, it's important to recognize the value we place on everyday obedience in the smallest things. It's a step-by-step process in getting there and through the framework of God's power, it produces a successful journey. In a contemporary culture that is driven by worldliness on a large scale, it's easy to forego the “little things”, but small choices of obedience can leave a big impact. When you are faithful in little, God will cause the tiny to add up to something much bigger. Ask the widow of one of the sons of the prophets who came to Elisha because she could not pay her debt and her sons were about to be sold off as slaves. She has nothing in the house but a pot of oil, but Elisha instructs her to borrow many vessels from her neighbors and friends and in her obedience, all the vessels are miraculously filled, and she can pay her debt and provide for the future of her sons. (2 Kings 4:1-7) Through her faithfulness, God augmented the widow's oil. When we tap into the power of God, we should never belittle the lonely steps or the long, endless journey of the pathway that He has called us to. Like the *mahiole*, God has already established the “framework” of His will and summons you to be steadfast and faithful in adding the “feathers” of your “little”, until the manifestation of His glory is complete. Only when you offer everything to God will you truly see the *mahiole* of the King of Kings and His anointing demonstrated in your life.