

THE TWO STONES

“I am the resurrection and the life.” – John 11:25



The first authentic record of the 2 1/2-ton Naha Stone deals with its voyage from the far away island of *Kaua'i*. It was said that it had rested hard by the *Wailua River* but was placed upon a double-hulled canoe by the *High Chief, Makali'inuikualawalea*, and by him brought to *Hilo* on *Hawai'i Island*, then, placed in front of the ancient temple *Pinao*, of which, but one single stone now remains. It is believed that the *Naha Stone* had the peculiar property of being able to determine the legitimacy of all who claimed to be of the royal blood of the *Naha*

rank. Immediately after a boy of *Naha* stock was born, he was brought to the *Naha Stone* and was laid down, while the priests (*kahuna*) prayed to the gods and chanted. We can only imagine how anxiously the parents watched their baby, for one faint cry from those infant lips would bring upon a shame which would endure throughout its lifetime. As a result, the child would be an outcast amongst the common people and make its way through life as best as possible. But should the infant be endowed with the virtue of silence, then it would be declared by the high *kahuna* to be of true *Naha* descent, a royal prince by right and destined to become a brave and fearless warrior. By ancient prophecy, only the chiefs of the *Naha* blood could violate its sanctity by moving it, and by doing so, be declared the king of the island. As a 14-year-old boy, *King Kamehameha 'Ekahi* moved the stone and fulfilled his destiny.

WHAT HUGE STONE IN YOUR LIFE NEEDS TO BE MOVED? Jesus once said, *“In this world, you will have trouble, but take heart! I have already overcome the world.”* (Jn.16:33) I want to encourage somebody today, that regardless of how large or massive your problem may be, you can move anything, but only when you get a clearer understanding of who Jesus is and what His identity means to you. **ASK MARY** and her encounter with the **STONE OF DOUBT**. In the Bible, Jesus commands her to “remove the stone” (Jn.11:39), but she does what many of us do today, we go back to human logic and limitations. She replies, *“Lord, by this time there will be a stench, for he has been dead four days.”* In other words, *“Jesus, I don't think you understand what's happening here.”* She failed where many of us fail, too. We fail to understand that Jesus' authority is not subject to “natural” limitations. (Jn.11:40) Nature must obey the laws of God. In the “natural”, you see before you believe, but you will never truly see until you believe in the “supernatural”. Jesus says to Martha, *“Don't give me a biology lesson, just move the stone!”* So, they removed the stone. (Jn.11:41) My friend, if you are going to make it; if you are going to move forward, get ready to have an encounter with the King at your “stone”. There's no such thing as a “stone-free” life, but “take heart”, you have Jesus Christ, the Rock of your salvation.

Then, there's the **STONE OF VICTORY**. Satan must have been furious when the stone was rolled away from Jesus' empty tomb. Why? Because Christ's resurrection was God's way of proclaiming His power over our enemy. Every believer has the assurance and hope in knowing that Jesus Christ has authority over everything—even, death. The Bible is clear that Christ died for every man, woman, boy and girl who **WAS, IS** and **EVER WILL BE BORN**. He is the Savior of the world, and our assurance of salvation can only be found in Him. He authors it. He gives it freely. He secures it for all eternity. God who saves us through His Son is the God who secures us and testifies to our salvation through the Holy Spirit. When the stone rolled away, Jesus stepped out of the grave. That's why the resurrection should change the way we look at life and death. What happened on Resurrection Sunday, Easter, should erase all fears and give us hope.