Mele ‘Aina - Ka Wai a Kāne - Paukū 5 & 6

Alaka‘i: E ui aku ana au iā ‘oe, Aia i hea ka wai a Kāne? One question I put to you, Where is the water of Kāne?

Hui: Aia i luna ka wai a Kāne Up on high is the water of Kāne
I ke ao uli, ke ao ‘ele’e‘ele In the heavenly blue, in the black cloud
I ke ao panopano In the black-black cloud
I ke ao pōpolohua a mea a Kāne lā ē In the black-mottled sacred cloud of the gods
Aia i la‘a ka wai a Kāne. There is the water of Kāne.

Alaka‘i: E ui aku ana au iā ‘oe, Aia i hea ka wai a Kāne? One question I ask of you, Where is the water of Kāne?

Hui: Aia i lalo i ka honua, i ka wai hū Deep in the ground, in the gushing spring
I ka wai hū, i ka wai kau a Kāne me Kanaloa In the water ducts of Kāne and Kanaloa
He wai puna, he wai e inu A well-spring of water, a water to drink,
He wai e mana, he wai e ola A water providing power, a water to give life
E ola nō, ‘eā. Give us life!

The last two stanza of this mele ‘āina list the different kinds of cloud forms that are associated with Kāne and the sacred waters, along with the sacred springs that provide this water of life. Water was probably the most important resource for Hawaiian life. Hawaiians understood that water was a gift from God and that it should be used wisely and sparingly.

The attached audio clip features the chant being done in the kāhoa style.