

Filipe Tohi

Transcript of video

In Tonga we call lalava in English its called lashing, but lalava is more deeper than just the lashing mean. Because to the western eye it's a binding and from the Tongan was very important because it's binding but it's also about the expression of the language and all kind of other things.

I am very pleased to be part of this. To be able to express my feeling about this fale in sight of the fale. To show how I can see through the eyes of the past, how the Tufunga of the 'past' see. Like I can show you some of the pattern, for example, like the checkerboard.

Now looking from outside you cannot see inside because it is only two dimension, but if you look at the other side you can see, for example, that pattern there is inside the checker board, so it's very fascinating. So these are the sacred and the secret of the past and they are understanding their part. I'm just trying to say that lalava is more deeper than just the lashing. Because I think as soon as we say lashing it's just about binding.

In the fale here every pattern is represents about the journey and about how they travelled in the ocean how the beginning of Maui, not only that - Aotearoa - and also the creation and if you see the joint of the pattern how the wood in the old days they didn't use the nail or glue they used specifically material that they had in the olden days. So of course in these days it's modern time now and all the stuff like nail and glue and all that is coming out so there is less to use these kind of techniques and it is in this Fale it is very important and the right place for it, to show and remind the student how the meaning of the connection with the past.

In here it's warm, even though some of them aren't complete, you can see how there's a warmth because of those lalava cover the joint. It gives you that kind of safe so why to make that so each Pacific Island walk in here they feel at home when they look up and make your mind wander.