

Sumanâpa Ruoka (Create a House)

This page describes one of the *Devotopai (Rituals)* of the *Poku Saeruo Degonjo*.

Ritual name	Sumanâpa Ruoka
Meaning	to make a house
Pronounced:	sū-măn-âpă rûō-kă

The Sumanâpa Rouka is the ritual where a new *Ruoka (House)* is acknowledged by the *Tanoi (Council)*, and from this point forward enjoys the rights, privileges and responsibilities of a *Ruoka*. During the ritual the Ruoka-Ta'a (speaker for the house) is named. Preparation for the ritual takes place prior to the actual ceremony after the *Tanoi* has decided to approve the petition.

The ritual takes place in the *Tanoi* meeting hall, representatives from as many *Ruoka'ka (Major House)*, and *Ruoka'sa (Minor House)* being present. The heads of the families who have petitioned to become a new *Ruoka (House)* enter wearing white Umatsai (robes) over their Formal *Vonaniom (Clothing)*. They line up behind the person who will be the Ruoka-Ta'a (Speaker for the house). A member of the *Kyn Lumu'ai Jael (Lore Keepers Sect)* comes out and faces the Mui or Mui-Ta'a. They announce the presence of the supplicants, and their desire to form a *Ruoka*. The council then asks for proof of the worthiness of the supplicants. The *Kyn Lumu'a* then proceeds to present the various events the supplicants lives that demonstrate their worth. There is no limitation as to how many things must be presented.

Once the *Kyn Lumu'a* completes reading, they ask for the Ta'ai of the *Jaeli (Sects)* to give their statements regarding the petition. After each Ta'a speaks they stand behind the supplicants. The leader of the *Tanoi* then asks that the supplicants present their *Afirmugaly (Heraldry)* to the *Tanoi*. The *Kyn Lumu'a* leaves the chamber and returns carrying the supplicants *Afirmugaly* under a cloth. He transfers it to the family and they then remove the cover and hold the *Afirmugaly* above their heads and rotate it so that all the *Tanoi* can see it.

The Mui or Mui-Ta'a then calls for a show of hands to approve the petition, this is merely for show as the petition has already been voted upon. After the show of hands, the Tui calls for the supplicants to be clad in their new colors. A group of *Kyn Lumu'a* comes in carrying Umatsai in the new Ruoka's family color and bearing the crest. The supplicants then change their robes and put on the new ones. Next members of the *Tavi Fua Jael (Blood Tooth Sect)* then present each of the supplicants with a veltin (dagger) bearing the new crest.

The Mui or Mui-Ta'a then asks for the supplicants to name who will speak for them. The supplicants then surround the individual who will be their Ta'a. They then place their left hand on him and as a group say the person's name and say "this is who will be our Ta'a." The *Tanoi* replies then it shall be so. And the confirmed person will be given an umatqe (sash) with the Ta'a markings on it. Once they donned the sash, they move to the front of the group. The new Ta'a then presents the new Ruoka and pledges their loyalty, and support to the *Tanoi* and the Poku (Clan).

At this point the *Punla (Family)* is then officially recognized and has the rights, privileges and responsibility of any other *Punla (Family)*.

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