

MULTILINGUAL MOTHER

A LIVING DOCUMENT

in memoriam Teresia Kieuea Teaiwa (1968 – 2017)



Teresia Teaiwa
(1968 – 2017)

* * * * *

Kam na mauri, ni sa bula vinaka, and talofa lava.

*This project honours Teresia Kieuea Teaiwa,
a beloved mother, wife, daughter, sister, aunty, niece, and cousin
who was also an important Pacific scholar, teacher, poet and activist.*

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*Of Banaban, I-Kiribati and African American descent,
born in Honolulu, and raised in Fiji,
Teresia spoke English, I-Kiribati, Fijian, French and Spanish,
and was conversant in Samoan and Māori.*

*She was a lifelong learner and would challenge herself to think in diverse languages,
weaving words from them through her poetry.*

*She was deeply committed to literature and the arts
as well as her rigorous and broad scholarly work on Pacific feminisms,
gender relations, race, politics, environments, militarism, diaspora, regionalism,
globalization, imperialism, indigenous knowledges, and pedagogies.*

*We hope this project, translating her powerful poem Mother into many languages,
helps spread her vision and legacy across many cultures.*

Kam bati n rabwa, vinaka vaka levu, fa'afetai tele lava,

Sean Mallon and Katerina Teaiwa

* * * * *

*This is a living document:
Teresia is still with us and continues to inspire us and guide us.*

*If Multilingual Mother has reached you,
wherever you may be in the world,
and your language is not represented here,
we invite you to translate the poem and we will add a page.*

* * * * *

MOTHER

The sky that
Makes possible
A lightning storm

The earth that
Makes possible
A volcano

The ocean that
Makes possible
A tidal wave

The parent
Who endures ... outlives ...
The child

from *Searching for Nei Nim'anoa* (Fiji: Mana Publications, 1995, p. 3)

TE TINA

Karawa ae
E kona
Te ititi n buaka

Te aonnaba ae
E kona
Te warekeeno

Te marawa ae
E kona
Te nao kabwereia

Te karo
Ae e botumwaka...
Nikierere maiu...
Te merimeri

TINĀ

O le lagi lenā
Na te mafaia
Le fa'ase'e'eseina o le afā

O le fogā'ele'ele lenā
Na te mafaia
Le maugamū

O le moana sausau lenā
Na te mafaia
Le galu lolo

O le mātua e
Na te lavātia ... onosa'ia ...
Le teineititi

Translated into Samoan by Niusila Faamanatu-Eteuati

E MĀ

E Mā
Te rangi pū
O te uira

Te papa
Te ōī
O te puā

Te tai
Whakaipūpu
Ngaru kino

Te kātua
Matatū ora
Ko te tamaiti

Translated into Māori by Kuratapirirangi Higgins

MOEDER

Die hemelruim wat
Dit moontlik maak
'n Donderstorm

Die aarde wat
Dit moontlik maak
'n Volkaan

Die oseaan wat
Dit moontlik maak
'n Golf in die gety

Die ouer
Wie volhard ... oorleef ...
Die kind

NËNË

Qielli që
mundëson
një vetëtim

Toka që
mundëson
një vullkan

Oqeani që
mundëson
një baticë

Ai prind që
duron ... mbijeton ...
fëmijën

Translated into Albanian by Rovena Troqe

الأم :

هي كالسمااء التي تجعل البرق ممكنا !
و كالأرض التي تجعل البركان ممكنا !
و كالمحيط الذي يجعل المد و الجزر ممكنا !
و الوالد الذي يتحمل و يعيش اكثر من اجل طفله !

মা

যে আকাশ
সৃষ্টি করে
বজ্রঝড়

যে ভূমি
সৃষ্টি করে
আগ্নেয়গিরি

যে মহাসাগর
সৃষ্টি করে
জোয়ারের জলোচ্ছাস

যে জন্মদাত্রী
সহ্য করে ... বেঁচে থাকে ...
সন্তানের পরেও

特蕾西娅·特阿伊瓦

母亲

那片
诞生了雷雨的
天空

那片
孕育了火山的
大地

那片
创造了潮汐的
海洋

那位容忍了孩子 ...
比他活得更久的 ...
母亲

MOEDER

De lucht die
Het onweer
Mogelijk maakt

De aarde die
Een vulkaan
Mogelijk maakt

De oceaan die
Een vloedgolf
Mogelijk maakt

De ouder die
Het kind
Overleeft

MÈRE

Le ciel qui
rend possible
la foudre d'un orage

La terre qui
rend possible
un volcan

L'océan qui
rend possible
un raz de marée

Le parent
qui résiste ... survit à ...
l'enfant

MUTTER

Der Himmel, der
ein Gewitter
ins Leben ruft

Die Erde, die
einen Vulkan
ins Leben ruft

Die See, die
eine Flutwelle
ins Leben ruft

Der Elternteil,
der ausharrt ... überlebt ...
das Kind

ΜΗΤΗΡ

ὁ οὐρανός
ὅς παρέχει
τὸν κεραυνόν

ἡ γῆ
ἣ παρέχει
τὸ πῦρ

τὸ πέλαγος
ὃ παρέχει
τὸ κῦμα

ὁ γονεὺς
ὅς ἀντέχει
ἐπιβιοῖ
τὸν παῖδα.

Translated into Greek by James Ackhurst

אמא

השמיים
מרשים אשר
ברקים סופת

הארץ
מרשה אשר
געש הר

האוקיינוס
מרשה אשר
גואה גל

ההורה
... לחיות שמאריכה ... בעול שנושאת
מילדה

Translated anonymously into Hebrew

ANYA

Az égbolt, ami
Lehetővé teszi
A villámlást

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A föld, ami
Lehetővé teszi
A tűzhányót

A óceán, ami
Lehetővé teszi
A szökőárt

A szülő,
Aki elviseli ... túléli ...
A gyermeket

Translated into Hungarian by Balint Koller

IBU

Langit
yang meniscayakan
badai petir

Bumi
yang meniscayakan
merapi

Lautan
yang meniscayakan
tsunami

Induk
yang menyintas ... dan mengubur ...
Si Anak

Translated into Indonesian by Stephen Epstein, Intan Paramadhita and Norman Erikson Pasaribu

MÁTHAIR

An spéir
a chuireann stoirm thintrí
ar fáil

An talamh
a chuireann bolcán
ar fáil

An t-aigéan
a chuireann tonn tuile
ar fáil

An tuismitheoir
a fhulaingíonn ... is a mhaireann i ndiaidh ...
an pháiste

Translated into Irish by Gabriel Rosenstock

MADRE

Il cielo che
rende possibile
una tempesta di fulmini

La terra che
rende possibile
un vulcano

L'oceano che
rende possibile
un maremoto

Il genitore
che sopravvive ... seppellisce ...
il figlio

母

雷雨を
可能にする
大空

火山を
可能にする
大地

津波を
可能にする
大洋

子供を
耐え忍び ... 生き長える ...
親

Translated into Japanese by Dennitza Gabrakova

ತಾಯಿ

ತನ್ನೊಳಗಿಂದಲೇ
ಮಿಂಚಿನ ಸೆಳಕನ್ನು
ಮೂಡಿಸುವ
ಬಾನು

ತನ್ನೊಳಗಿಂದಲೇ
ಅಗ್ನಿಪರ್ವತವನ್ನು
ಹೊಮ್ಮಿಸುವ
ಭೂಮಿ

ತನ್ನೊಳಗಿಂದಲೇ
ಹೆಬ್ಬಲೆಯನ್ನು
ಚಿಮ್ಮಿಸುವ
ಕಡಲು

ಹೊರುವುದರ... ಹೆರುವುದರ...
ಆಚೆಗೂ
ಬದುಕುಳಿಯುವ
ತಾಯನದ ಧಾರಣಶಕ್ತಿ

어머니

번개를 보내는 하늘
화산을 불러내는 땅
파랑을 만드는 바다
아이를 감내하고 ... 품는
엄마

Translated into Korean by Mi Young and Stephen Epstein

MATER

caelum: fulmina coniciens et tempestates.
tellus: volcanos igniferos pariens.
oceanus: fluctus volvens qui nos populentur.
alma parens: proli perpetuens superest.

Translated into Latin by Simon Perris

مادر

Page | 28 آسمانی که

آبستن
برق و طوفان است

زمینی که
در دلش
آشفشانی خفته است

اقیانوسی که
در جذبه ماه
موج خروشان می زاید

و مادری که
تاب می آورد... به خاک می سپارد...
فرزند را

Translated into Persian by Roya Jabarouti

MATKA

Niebo
które niesie
burzę

Ziemia
która rodzi
wulkan

Ocean
który niesie
przyływ

Rodzic
który cierpi ... [gdy] przeżywa ... [swoje]
dziecko

Translated into Polish by Zbigniew Gniatkowski

MÃE

O céu que
Torna possível
Uma tempestade de raios

A Terra que
Torna possível
Um vulcão

O oceano que
Torna possível
Um maremoto

A mãe
Que dura ... vive ...
A criança

MAMĂ

Cerul care
Face posibilă
O furtună cu fulgere

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Pământul care
Face posibil
Un vulcan

Oceanul care
Face posibil
Un val de maree

Părintele
Ce îndură ... supraviețuiește ...
copilului

Translated into Romanian by Alexandra Dumitrescu Balm

МАТЬ

Без неба
невозможен
шторм

Вулкан
не сможет
без Земли

Без океана
нет
волны прибоя

А ты,
Перетерпела ...
пережила ...
дитя свое.

MADRE

El cielo
que hace posible
tormentas y relámpagos

La tierra
que hace posible
un volcán

El océano
que hace posible
un maremoto

La madre
que aguanta ... que sobrevive ...
a su hijo

MAMA

Anga
Linalosababisha
Ngurumo na Radi

Ardhi
Inayosababisha
Volkano

Bahari
Inayosababisha
Mawimbi

Mzazi
Anayedumu ... anayeendelea kuishi ...
Baada ya mtoto.

Translated into Swahili by Karen Stringer

INA

Ay ang langit na
Maaring gawain
Ang makabuluhan bagyo

Ay ang mundo na
Maaring gawain
Ang isang bulkan

Ay ang dagat
Maaring gawain
Ang dambuhalang alon

Ay ang magulang
Na siyang nagtiis ... nag pakasakit para sa buhay ...
Ng kanyang anak

Translated into Tagalog by Theodoro Helbano

தாய்

எரிமின்னல் வரிகோடிகள் வடியுந்தம் பார்வானம்
வெடிமலை சுடும்பாறை சுமக்கம் பொறநிலம்
ஆழ்அலையை ஆளாக்கம் அளவில்லா கடல்வளம்
சுழந்தையை ஈன்றும்... வாழும்... பற்றுவள்.

Translated into Tamil by Hari Shankar

ḵaa tláa

wé xáats' áwé
a jeedáḵ adulyéḵ
xeitl l'óokḵu

yá Lingit'aaní
a jeedáḵ adulyéḵ
yal'úk shaa

wé éil' héeni
a jeedáḵ adulyéḵ
teet tlein

ḵaa tláa
a tóonáḵ yaawagút ... tóot ḵ'asakwtéen ...
du yádi ḵu.aa ḵut shuwaxeex

Translated into Tlingit by Ḷ'unei Lance Twitchell

МАТІР

Небо вможлиблює
Грозу й блискавиці

Земля уможлиблює
Вулкани і лави

Океан наганяє нам
Хвилі припливу

А матір
В стражданнях приносить
Дитя

Translated anonymously into Ukrainian

MẸ

Là bầu trời
Có lúc
Nổi bão giông

Là trái đất
Cháy rục
Ngọn núi lửa

Là đại dương
Triều lên
Ngàn đợt sóng

Là hi sinh ...
Là gian khổ ...
Vì con

Translated into Vietnamese by Diep Tran

O Her!

in memory of Teresa

[O]t[her]s
skylight
in storm

[O]t[her]s
earth
volcanos

[O]t[her]s
tide
impossible
waves

[O]t[her]s
live out ... in ...
the endearing child

Selina Tusitala Marsh

New Zealand Poet Laureate (2017-2019)



Mother Man. Anatomy of Paradise (2012)

Artstation by Kalisolaite 'Uhila

2017 Creative New Zealand Contemporary Pacific Art Award

Photograph by Marlaina Key

Courtesy of TAUTAI | GUIDING PACIFIC ARTS | www.tautai.org



NEKE The New Zealand Journal
of Translation Studies

National Poetry Day
24 August 2018