

# 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



Ö'HÖN

Ka 'ufiamorata  
Usäg vavhina  
Taa ne mere lagi ta

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Pera laloga rani  
Fifihöki  
Ta vai rahi ji

'Ül tanu sasi  
Kafam piki  
Sa'au valu hot

Te'is O'it  
Ne 'or un mahini..... fakfatia.....  
'Ona fanau

Translated into Rotuman by Fekau Vilsoni Hiagi Tomasi, Joshua V.O. Sopapelu Tarterani and  
Melissa Fiu

E MĀ

E Mā  
Te rangi pū  
O te uira

Te papa  
Te ōi  
O te puā

Te tai  
Whakaipupu  
Ngaru kino

Te kātua  
Matatū ora  
Ko te tamaiti

Translated into Māori by Kuratapirangi 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

Translated into Afrikaans by Anette Klaassen

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 !

Translated into Arabic by Noha Alghmndi

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

Translated into Dutch by Joost de Bruin



## 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 | 29 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 вможливилює  
Грозу й блискавиці

Земля вможливилює  
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 Teresia*

[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](http://www.tautai.org)



**NEKE** The New Zealand Journal  
of Translation Studies

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National Poetry Day  
24 August 2018