

# TRANSLATING DECOLONISATION

*Rodrigo Gomez\**

## Rapa

El rugir de las olas  
 del incesante clamor  
 en aguas transparentes  
 y desordenadas  
 con despertares irreverentes  
 e inaprensibles  
 de llamadas sencillas  
 pero inmoderadas  
 y a veces cuando cansados  
 condenados a soñar  
 de ser libres  
 al fin

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\* Rodrigo Gomez is a Chilean lawyer who completed a Master of Arts in Pacific Studies with Distinction at Victoria University of Wellington in 2010. The thesis was on the self-determination of the people of Rapa Nui (Easter Island). The thesis begins with this poem. It was written before the troubles in Hanga Roa of July 2010 but is well contextualised by those and more recent events on Easter Island. "Sangrienta repression en Rapa Nui" (2010) The Clinic <[www.theclinic.cl](http://www.theclinic.cl)>.

Translations 1, 2 and 3 are something of a team effort by Tony Angelo, Joel Colón-Ríos, John Jamieson, Talei Pasikale, and Kate Stone. The translations are endeavours to reflect the physical imagery, the sentiment and the substance of the Spanish original.

Having read the translations, the author suggested the fourth translation as that which felt "most close" to him. That translation is produced alongside the translation in te reo Māori which was made by Tai Ahu.

## Rapa

The roar of waves,  
 the endless clamour  
 in the transparent  
 chaotic sea,  
 with irreverent and  
 unseen stirrings  
 of simple,  
 yet importunate demands,  
 at times, tiring,  
 condemned to dreams  
 of finally  
 being free.

## Rapa

The roar of the waves  
 of the incessant clamour  
 of waters disturbed  
 and transparent  
 with irreverent  
 and inconceivable  
 awakenings  
 of simple  
 but untempered calls  
 and sometimes when  
 wearied  
 condemned to dream  
 of being free  
 at last

## Rapa

The roar of the waves  
 of the unceasing clamour  
 in waters transparent and in turmoil  
 with the rude and unexpected stirrings  
 of simple but untempered calls  
 and sometimes when wearied then  
 condemned to dream  
 of being free  
 at last

## Rapa

The roar of the waves  
of the incessant clamour  
in waters disturbed  
and transparent  
with awakenings irreverent  
and inconceivable  
of calls simple  
but untempered  
and sometimes when  
wearied  
condemned to dream  
of being free  
at last

## Rapa

Te wheoro o te wai karekare  
e pakū tonu, e pakū tonu,  
o te wai whakahīoi  
o te wai kōataata  
he ohonga noa,  
he ohonga kore kitea  
o te karanga haumaruru  
e kore e āraitia  
engari i tōna takawhē  
ka mauheretia kia moemoeā  
noa,  
kia tukua, kia pātea  
kia ea

