

Wandering Soul

WANDERING SOUL

BY SUSIE JI

A long time ago...



I am Tūmatahina, the chief of Muriwhenua Tribe.

We were held under siege and running out of food.

- Ruia, ruia, tahia, tahia -

I'm Tūmatahina,
the chief of Muriwhenua

Come on!
Let's make some
dummy warriors!

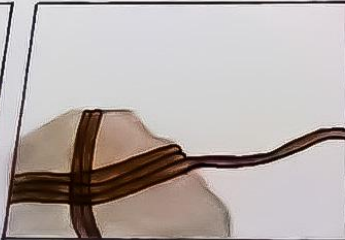
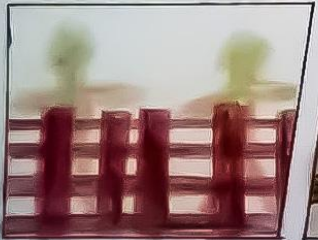


Let's fix this long
flax rope to this rock



We made dummy warriors out of bulrushes and placed them around the palisades of the pā.

Then we made a long flax rope, which was fixed to a rock on the mainland.



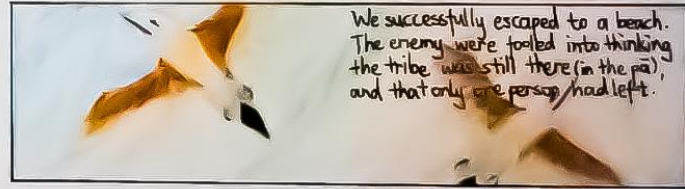


I sent people one at a time, hand-over-hand, along the rope.



I followed at the rear.

I used my especially large feet to conceal all the other footprints.



We successfully escaped.

The enemy were fooled into thinking only one person had left.

With us, and godwits.

Years Passed

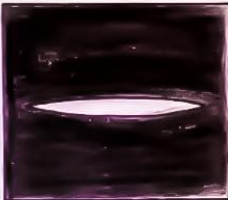
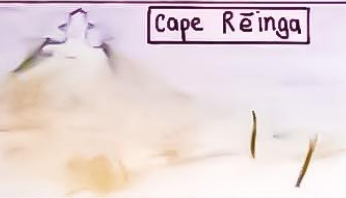
Kapowairua

As a spirit of dead, I have
to pass through Kapowairua
to arrive Cape Rēinga.



That's it. My life. Do whatever it
takes to protect Murimeneua's
people.
Hawaiki. Here I am.

Cape Rēinga



Is here Manawatawhi?
It looks like Cape Rēinga...
Am I still alive?



Is my mouth that long... ?



I look like a godwit...

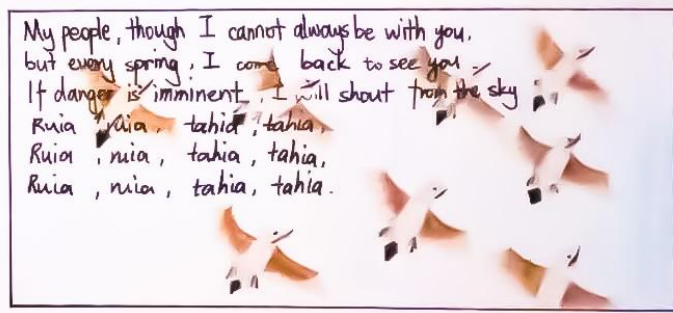


No one can escape death. I was aged. As a spirit of death, I was out of my body. I arrived at Cape Rēinga where spirits congregate before leaping into the water.

I jumped into the water,
When I open my eyes again, the sea is still endless in front of me.

Before proceeding to their spiritual home in Hawaiki, spirits usually sing a last lament for the loved ones they have left behind in Manawatawhi where spirits surface after crossing the ocean.

But it seems that my spirit is now hosted on a godwit.



END

I tried speaking like a person.

But I can only make bird calls, 'ruia' sounds and 'tahia' sounds.

This doesn't seem too bad.

When danger is imminent, I would shout from the sky,

'RUIA, RUIA, TAHIA, TAHIA-

RUIA, RUIA, TAHIA, TAHIA-

RUIA, RUIA, TAHIA, TAHIA-'

Kia hemo te kākōakoa,

Kia herea mai i te kawau korokī.

Kia tātaki mai i roto i te pūkorokoro, whaikoro,

Te kūaka, he kūaka mārangaranga,

Tahi manu i tau ki te tāhuna, tau atu, tau atu, tau atu!