



# Home Ground.

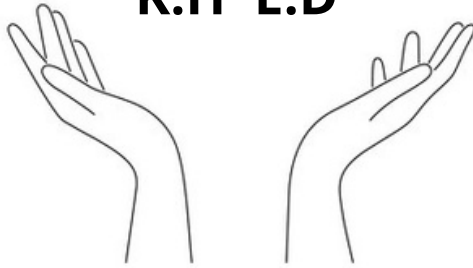


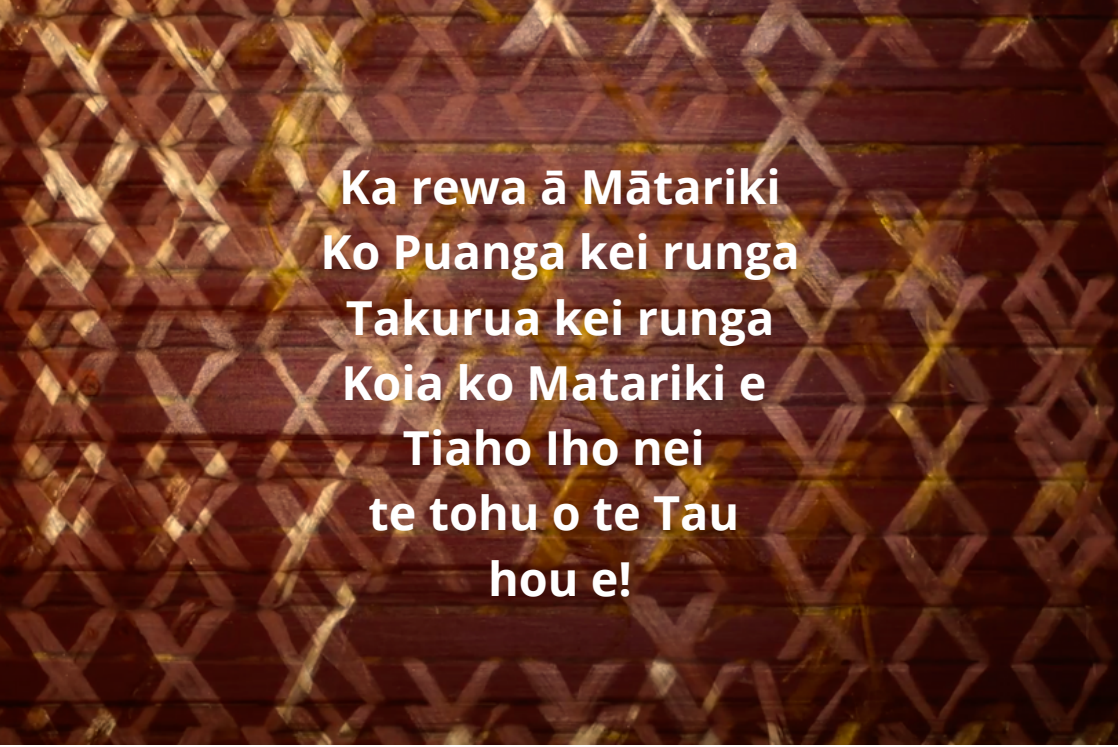
## **'A Woman's Own'**

Project Rua \* June 2021 \* Arohata Prison

**R.V E.S**

**K.H E.D**





**Ka rewa ā Mātariki  
Ko Puanga kei runga  
Takurua kei runga  
Koia ko Matariki e  
Tiaho Iho nei  
te tohu o te Tau  
hou e!**

I can see so many hands holding dirt  
Arms outstretched  
I hear nothing

A pen in my hand that wants to draw pictures  
Creating something beautiful out of small things

The beautiful inside-of-brain silence  
The fire's core is a blinding fierce white light  
It matches the fire in my belly  
Pushing me to make the wrongs right

All the people focus on the dazzling dance of light  
Do they just see its surface level beauty or can they see what I see  
The fire goddess emerging to take over the night....

The celebration event for the winter solstice was fast approaching. Aunty had been emailing and ringing almost daily now to make sure I was still coming along.

I really couldn't be bothered, but because mum had died less than a year ago and aunty had said we need to follow protocols, "all the old ones need you to be present girl!...Your mothers not here, we need to keep the practice alive in our whanau, girl, are you listening to me?" she probed, "Yes Aunty, I'm listening, I'm just tired" truly exhausted, trying to brush her off.

The cousins picked me up to go to the beach to collect driftwood for the bonfire, lighting a path for the old ones to descend and our sacrifices ascend also – embraced by the goddess Matariki.


The fragrance of the fire would tantalize our primal senses so we might spiritually connect to the old ones from the stars. The Kahui Whetū. It will be early in the morning before the majik began, the witching hours – the darkness before the light, before bird song, the spirit time. I will release mum's memory then, acknowledge and relinquish what I was still holding on to, to the lady of the underworld, the old ones, from the stars I will commence mum's wairua to her tupuna. It was time. It was time.



**I pushed you away... you came back  
I pushed you away... you came back  
I pushed you away... you always came back  
I never understood why... nobody came back until  
you did**

She took me home when I was three hours old  
She loved me unconditionally  
She told me every day that if I achieved nothing today  
To always be kind would be enough

She has been old – always old  
But with her oldness came wisdom.



**Honour Humble  
Memories Superhuman  
Suffering Unconditional  
Loss Available**

I wish I had a sister

I want my sister to live

There is no one else like a sister

There's twistedness in having a sister

**Love, loyalty, dysfunctional, love, love, respect**

**Loyalty, love, children, dying, birth, tamariki, solid**

**Respect, Abandonment, loyalty, loyalty, respect, hold, tension**

**Belong, belonging, love, belong, kai, belong, kai**

## **Love**

The word gets thrown around these days  
Loyalty is in the same boat  
It's all good sis, I got your back  
Then the knife gets pushed in

Why don't humans understand how actions cause  
abandonment?

Fooled by the witchery of his eyes and lashes and mouth  
and lips, cast of his spell - stealing something more than  
what I was actually giving him.

I don't want to leave her out in the gate wing  
I have to protect her

I desire love, life, freedom,  
A feeling of belonging to someone,  
Hope and freedom to be who I am  
Honesty & Respect.

I feel the warmth grow and glow on my face, I smile at it's  
crackle and open my eyes to see her brilliance.

**It's mine, it's my freedom.**

**Freedom**

**It's mine.**

Giving birth, giving life, creating the inner fire of my babies,  
just as my mother gave to me. I did not understand the  
inner fire, birth and love connection, it is all connected.  
Connectedness is all I want. I want to have someone. My  
Nan was my someone. My children are my someones.

**Am I fixed?**

**Am I fixed enough?**

**Am I fixed enough and ready?**

**Am I fixed enough and ready to face the world?**





## **Actions Speak Louder Than Words**

*Actions speak louder than words  
You say you respect me  
Just let me be free*

*My inner fire blazes trying to touch the sky  
The walls around me try to take away the light*

*Putting on a show to mask all our pain  
From the truth that we really need to say*

*Actions speak louder than words  
You say you respect me  
Just let me be free*

*I feel too weird like I don't belong  
Where I can be myself, no pressure to be strong*

*You speak of values, no one can see at all  
Crying out for you to care for my soul*

*Actions speak louder than words  
You say you respect me  
Just let me be free*

In 10 years time

The howling wind spins wildly around, though  
I shiver at the sound, I am warm. I sigh and pull my  
scarf over my ears.

I can feel the pen in my hand and the way it  
brushes over the paper as I write

In 10 years time

I see myself happy, loved, belonging, married.  
To be a better loving woman  
To be myself.

In 10 years time

the light dances across the water ... the smell of  
real coffee is the smell of freedom...

In 10 years time

I will be touching my lips to the forehead of my 1st  
moko

I will breathe in the smell of new life.

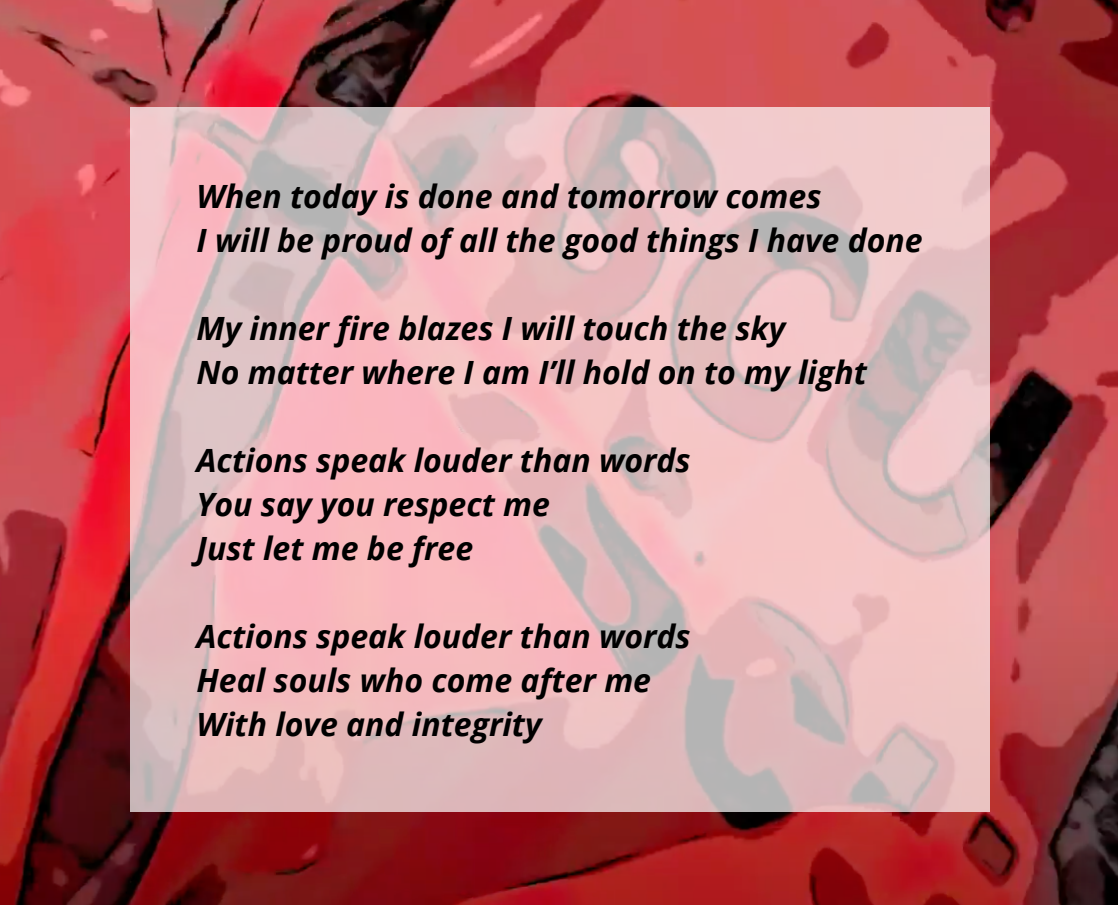
What will I teach the baby, how will I perform the  
most important role of my life?

In this dimly lit room, I will just show love,

**Feel love,**

**Cry love,**

**and be love.**



***When today is done and tomorrow comes  
I will be proud of all the good things I have done***

***My inner fire blazes I will touch the sky  
No matter where I am I'll hold on to my light***

***Actions speak louder than words  
You say you respect me  
Just let me be free***

***Actions speak louder than words  
Heal souls who come after me  
With love and integrity***

As all the elements of the universe inhale and exhale  
The light into the mother star

Giving her life

Matariki is held in the palm of all the elements  
Resting her in between her greatest creations

Invisible lives during the day  
And light force during the night



# Home Ground

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