

## Unknown

Ngati Maniapoto tribe (17th century) · translated from the Maori by Abby Ryder-Huth

# [Reaching together,]

Reaching together,  
together so closely together  
we watch the earth stretch  
forth outside us, before us.

O listen closely:  
a great sea-like cry  
of tree locusts

overflows past  
the middle of the night, their chatter

rattling, rattling.

O, lie down trembled earth  
Flock of earth, set down, set down.

Tonight our own hips swing like new,  
we bend our deaf knees slowly.  
O what sound! what breath!

