AO TEA ROA

(Lester Simpson)

Day breaks, heart aches as sunlight coming streaming,

Recall of time and of place.

Cold dawning shadows on mist trace no meaning,

Warm dreams lost without trace.

Half a world distant, the moon rises clear.

Over childhood that now seems so far,

And climbs through a firmament, older than memory.

Ao Tea Roa.

Noon chimes, sun climbs over farmland and forest,

and tempers the truth that we see.

We all turn the sod in the hope of a harvest,

The promise of springs yet to be.

Strange tongues, strange songs tell of this country,

Tunes that are new to the ear.

But the story's the same, as old as our voices,

We share the same hopes, the same fears.

Ao Tea Roa.

Twilight and westward the brightness is speeding.

To bring you the hope of new day.

Darkness and yesterday's questions are fading?

As dawn lightens blue out of grey.

Midday or midnight, darkness or daylight,

Sunset or morning star.

Half a day, half a world, half a life distant.

Ao Tea Roa.

(einde)