

High & middle voices sing all words:

Low mixed & men's voices:

A section:

Ko Ranginui, Ko Papatuanuku

Mo ake tonu atu

Mo ake tonu atu

B section 1:

Beneath the longing weight of cloud

She sighs his tears will fall as dew drops in the morning

B section 2:

Between the wild and dripping green

He cries her sighs will rise as cold mist from the valley

The Story of Ranginui and Papatuanuku

Ranginui is the sky, the father of all things; Papatuanuku is the earth, the mother of all things. In the beginning there was darkness, and these two, the earth and the sky, lay together. They had many children, who lay between them. It was dark for many ages; there was as yet no world with its bright light.

Then their children began to wonder what kind of thing the light could be. They wearied of the narrow space to which they were confined, and wished to separate their parents, so that there could be light.

Tane, the god and father of forests, said 'It is better to drag them apart and let the sky be far above us, and the earth lie beneath our feet. In this way the sky will become a stranger to us, but the earth will stay close to us as a mother.'

Tane, struggled with his parents; He strained his back in a mighty effort, and he tore apart his parents; they shrieked and groaned as they cried out, 'Why are you parting us thus? Why do you commit such a terrible crime as to tear your parents apart?'

And through all this time the vast sky has not ceased to mourn the loss of his wife the earth. Often in the long nights he weeps, and drops upon her breast those tears which men call dew. And often the loving sighs of Papa go up towards the sky; and when men see these, they call them mists.

Abstract from

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