

31. KA TAHI TĪ



Ka tahi tī, ka rua tī	<i>One fantail, two fantails</i>
Ka haramai te patitore	<i>Arrive and gather</i>
Ka rauna, ka rauna	<i>In the undergrowth</i>
Ka noho te kiwi kiwi	<i>The kiwi kiwi settles</i>
He pō, he wai, takitaki	<i>Soothing sounds</i>
Nō pī, nō pā, kahuia mai	<i>Come from all around</i>
Kai ana te whetū	<i>The stars look out</i>
Kai ana te marama	<i>The moon keeps watch</i>
Ko te tio rere i runga rā papa	<i>A cry rings out up high</i>
Kōtore wīwī wāwā	<i>Chirping carping</i>
Heke, heke te manu	<i>The bird descends</i>
Ki tōna tauranga	<i>To its resting place</i>
Tihei mauri ora	<i>Tihei mauri ora</i>

This traditional chant isn't easily translated, because it is symbolic and metaphorical. The chant speaks about the harmony of the stars and the sea, and it includes the message that one must be diligent to succeed.

One interpretation says it is about the kiwi continuing to sit on its eggs even though two fern birds are lurking. Another interpretation, from a Tūhoe source, says the song is a star-counting chant that was recited when someone was waving a firebrand over crops to stop frost damage. The words speak of the harmony of the stars and the sea. The translation used above is only a guide.

Point out the dropping of pitch on the first word of the line.

It is an excellent chant for the whole class. Make it a class goal to be able to chant this without stopping.

Read "Tautoru's Bird Snare", *School Journal*, Part 3 Number 3, 2007, which is a Māori story about the night sky.

The song sheets for all waiata and haka are at the back of this book.