

**hone**

Before I keep writing this description of sorts  
about you, can I just say a few things.

No one knew where you were the day it was  
announced that a tree had fallen.

When trees fall it is a known fact that stones  
cushion their mana.

The sun had set and yes also the clouds had spread  
a great bed sheet across the firmament.

I am a poet because of you.

Your eyes were woven from the feathers  
of tui and of all the damn creatures in the bloody world God  
had to use the teeth of sharks to bind those beautiful eyes to a face.

We are lucky huh, that a country like this had gone  
through hell to be independent, and our writers had  
to think deeply about the first rain they remembered.

What rain was that?

Yes, rain was used to discolor our attitudes, our social morals.

Hell, was that really a God between her legs?

Yes it wasn't.

Still we all laughed.

Even though I first shook your hands in a magazine  
you always and will forever remain a tree.

I am a stone.

There were lots of stones that day.

So many stones that we started to eat stone.

It tasted good.

Stones in the hangi.

Stones under the foundation of our homes.

No one I knew had a program to tell us  
when you would be buried.

Like words that never want to be used

Like cars that had no memory

Like roads that had one chance at going to heaven

Ka kite ano

**John Pule**

12 august 2008