

TIROTIRO KAU AU

Tirotiro kau au
ki marae kāinga
E rā

*I solemnly gaze across the sacred
courtyard of my Ancestors in search
of kindred spirits in amongst the
assembled
Memories arise in sorrow*

Kei whea koutou
e ngaro nei
e te iwi
E rā

*Where are you all?
The vanished souls
lost to the gathered clan*

Taku aroha
ki ngā tai e ngunguru
E rā

*My memories well up deep emotions
to pulsate within like a rhythmic sea,
ebbing and exceeding.*

E rite mai ki te iwi
e ngunguru noa nei
E rā

*Soulful echoes of memoirs mingling
with the murmuring, caressing hums
drifting in from the gathered throng*

Takoto mai
ki te pā kōiwi
E rā

*Farewell my esteemed Ancestors
lie, rest in your tombs of the black
dark*

Ka tōkia tō kiri
e te anu mātao
E rā

*Your remains forever cloaked with
the dank shroud of the bitter stinging
cold*