

TIWAI

Ariana Sutton

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When the spirits raise their flag,
I gotta get mine too!

This is not a poem.
This is blood, sweat and fears
the tears, you polluted
lie hidden in people's homes.
The bones around Tiwai
the toki in the sand.
Am I at the mercy of your
ruthless hand? Rio Tinto

No! 'cause when the spirits
raise their flags,
I've got mine too

It wavers on the inside
flagging across my heart and instinct.
The wind cleanses me
and tells me what's wrong
And what's right.

Yes. We all know it's wrong
but continue the same song
excusing this denial, 'cause
underneath you've all felt
this, for far too long.



I'll cradle your silence
your numbness and your fears.
But don't come to silence me,
'cause I took the spirit flag.

The song is on repeat,
to deafen the noisy lies -
we sell ourselves.
We deserve ourselves, in
full health, love and connection
to a nourished land.
Trust in community leaders,
thrusting around in solid form.
Upon the rocks, at the point
Te Ara a Kiwa.
The mighty southern ocean!
you could never be defeated.

Then you remember:
Your, your own Leader
and the song,
the sea and the sovereignty
is yours.

Speak for the voiceless.
Act for the un-birthed.
Feel for the neighbour
and love thyself,
as pure oceans do.

Ariana Sutton, Kāi Tahu, Kāti Mamoe, Waitaha Ōku Iwi. No Murihiku ia.