

## Maori Language

### WHEN THE SPIRIT OF THE NATION

Tune: HERITAGE

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1. When the spirit of the nation  
Is not rooted in the soil  
Where people love and play,  
Where people strive and toil,  
Then like a tree that's felled  
By fearsome Nor'-west gale,  
It will die, it will die.
2. When the culture of a people  
Is divorced from its own tongue,  
When language from the past  
Is neither used nor sung,  
Then like a tree that's felled  
By fearsome Sou'-west gale,  
It will die, it will die.
3. For a culture reaches further  
Than the present joys and tears;  
A culture is the shape  
Of ancient hopes and fears  
And with no native tongue  
And all that it enshrines,  
It will die, it will die.
4. In the language of the Māori  
Dwells the cadence of this land,  
The surge of mountain stream,  
The whisper of the sand  
Enshrining soil and sea  
Within its sacred sounds  
For us all, for us all.

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