

Arctic Ocean



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Pacific Ocean

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Fiji

# Blood Sky Island

*By Daren Kamali (an Fijian poet)*

You rose –  
From the boiling sea

Hot rocks exploded –  
into the atmosphere.

Fished land up –  
from bloody ocean.

Waves of fire and steam  
Watching Mahuika rise.

She pours lava into the Waitui Atea  
Red and orange fill the gulf.

Two nights on this glorious rock  
Showered from a basin – outside.

Childhood memories flooding back.  
Mosquitoes buzzing in my ear.

My wife said –  
*This house reminds me of my grandmother*

We sat outside and watched the full moon dance –  
Till it disappeared behind clouds of grey.

Pele hid her pretty face –  
Behind bloody skies

Summer breeze echo's ancient chants  
Of prisoner-built roads and oyster thieves.

We fished for history and tell-tale signs –  
That only bare rocks could tell.

We gathered memories –  
like harvesting seashells from wharf posts

We sat by the Hauraki Gulf –  
On a starry night.

A taki glass between four of us –  
Watching boats pass as we fished.

In summer –  
This island is 3 degrees hotter.



The sun reflects off the water  
surface –  
I felt my shoes burn.

I removed my shoes and dipped  
my feet –  
In the cool water of the lagoon  
This island –

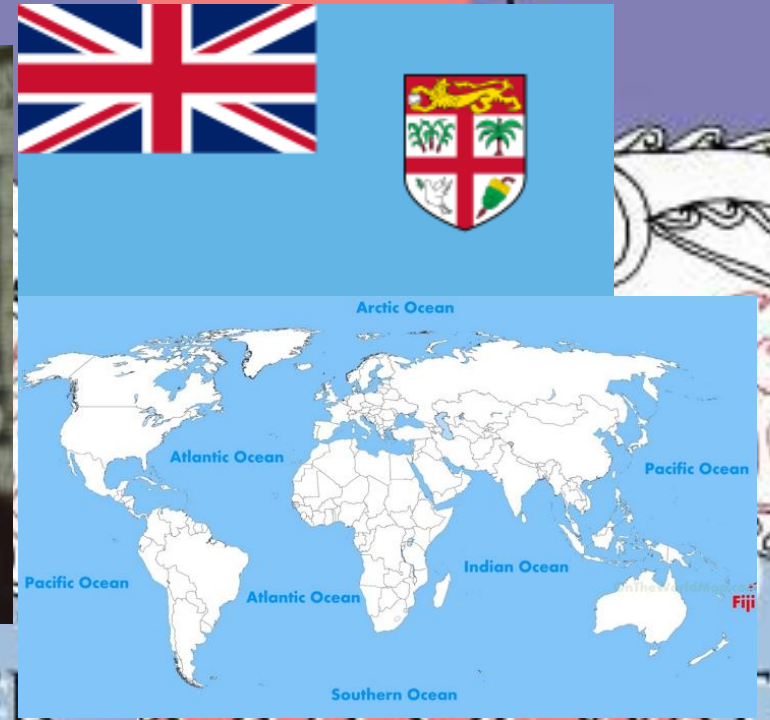
Is Blood Sky Island.

Rangitoto Island.

# Daren Kamali

## About the poet

- Born in Fiji in 1975
- Kamali is a poet, writer, musician, teacher and museum curator
- Kamali holds both a Bachelor's degree and a Master's degree in Creative Writing
- Kamali was the recipient of a Writer's Residency, which he completed in Honolulu, Hawaii



## About the poem

- How do you feel after reading it?
- Which lines or words resonated with you and why?
- What would you say the main theme of this poem is?