



## Take-Off

*By Konai Helu Thaman (a Tongan poet)*

what was it you thought  
when the moon swam out  
of the sea?

i thought  
i caught a glimpse  
of you

when was  
the first time  
birds learnt to fly?

i know it was when I began  
to write

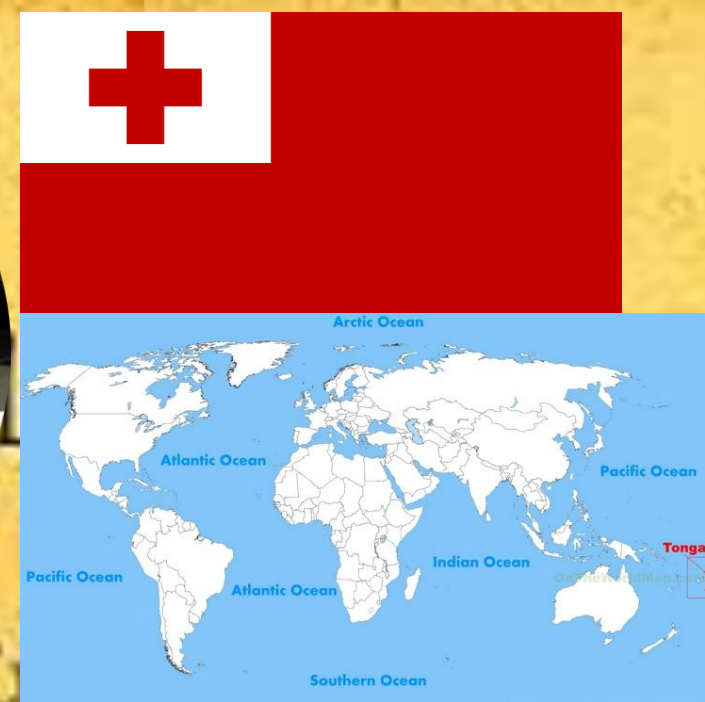




# Konai Helu Thaman

## About the poet

- Born in Nuku'alofa, Tonga, in 1946
- Thaman is a poet, researcher and academic
- Thaman achieved her Bachelor's degree in Geography, and then achieved her teaching qualification
- From 1998-2006, Thaman was the UNESCO Chair in Teacher Education and Culture



## 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?