

pivot
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Mapping Home

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I asked my brother to draw home.
A young boy raised in the rocky mountains
drawing many "blobs" on a white sheet of paper...
only to find islands strewn across a vast ocean.

Bird's eye view, almost too far to touch
asking... where do I come from?
how do I speak my language?
who am I?

but still... knowing... home resides
in the vast ocean, not the mountain trees
I answered, "We know home it is"...

Our *large noses* placed squarely on our faces
passed through our grandfather
seen in family across generations

Our *curly and unruly hair*
shaped like the ocean waves
Our ancestors navigated for centuries

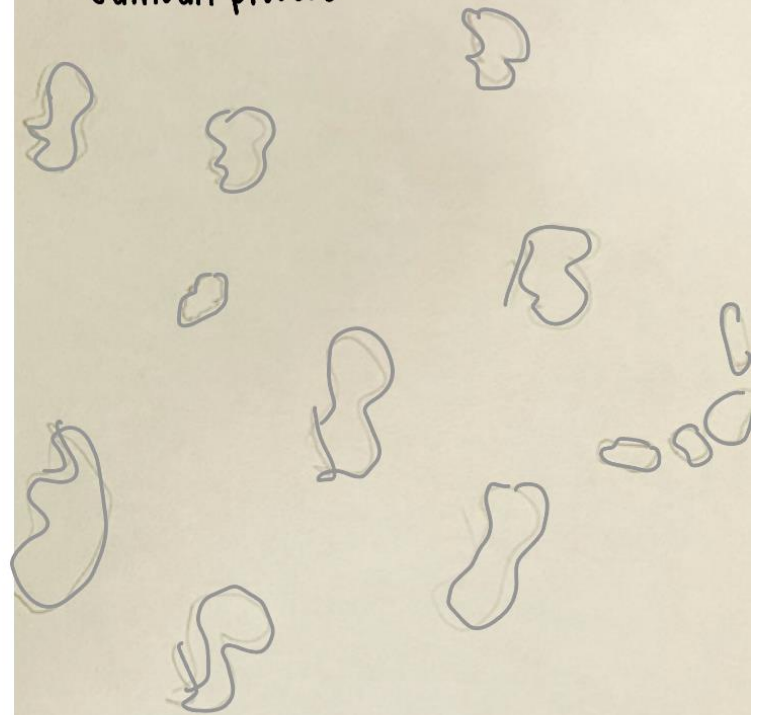
Our *grandparents refusing* to speak english
emphasizing the importance
of learning and using our mother tongue

Our *prayers to the ancestors* for guidance
when we're filled with fear, but also,
gratitude for the restoration of our souls

Our *names* carrying the livelihood
of those who came before us.
We are the continuation of their legacy & dreams...

by the *connection of home*... the vast oceans...
We *confront, liberate, and persevere*
for those who came before, those today,
and those whose future we fight for every day.

"E lele le Toloa, ae ma'au i le vai"
Sāmoan proverb



"The Toloa bird flies far, but will
always return back to the water."