

## **The Necessity of Re-attachment**

Listening with...  
listening with the neighbourhood  
at midnight, or at dawn

Listening with an awareness that all around you are other life-forms simultaneously listening and sensing with you – plant roots, owls, centipedes, cicadas – mutually intertwined within the web of vibrations which animate and surround our planet.  
(World Listening Day 2019)

Listening so closely to a river that you enter the river, are listening inside the river's flow.  
Becoming one with the river as its sound enters your body – right here, not separate.

Listening to a volcanic vent, movement from within a tree, the sun's oscillations, as those vibrations pulse inside your body and tickle your synapses – thus, not separate.

Listening to feel that I am one with all these phenomena. Can I know it? I listen – to know it.

What we are at one with, we cannot harm.

“I am the river and the river is me.” This consciousness is consequential in the most practical way: in NZ, the Whanganui River/ Te Awa Tupua, I quote from a Parliamentary bill, “its tributaries, and all its physical and metaphysical elements”, is now recognized by the government as the indivisible and living whole which the river's people, the iwi and hapu of Te Awa Tupua, have always known it to be. After the tribes' long struggle to protect the river, Te Awa Tupua – again I quote – “is now a legal person, and has all the rights, powers, duties and liabilities of a legal person” by act of Parliament. This status ensures that if the river should be harmed now the law will not discriminate between harming the tribes and harming the river – they are indivisible.

The tribes have a saying – I am the river and the river is me. The river is kin.

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