

Powhiri held on July 19, 2016

A poem by Parbati from Bhutan, who has spent 23 years as a refugee in Nepal

Those words of welcome
Welcoming us all, summoning us to the hall.
So many years we spent in the cold
So many years we were not told,
Not told where we belonged.

This powhiri has welcomed us all,
And welcomed us home!
Now I know where I belong,
Now I know New Zealand is our home!

Stories were shared by all,
Stories of the journey while on life's boat –
That we've all walked through the same rough road!
We've all walked through the same rough road!!

We sang the songs of praise.
Songs honouring our countries left behind!
Songs of welcome they sang,
And they sang a song of thanks!

A beautiful message from the tangata whenua,
Was warmly passed on to us,

We're taken in as one of them,
Now we're taken in as one of them!

A hongi will tell

That the warmest welcome we felt!

That guided is to the grand feast!!

This powhiri had a message,

A message of Respect, of Love

And of Peace!!!