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2011

The measure of a man's worth (after MLK and the content of his character) [poem]

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Recommended Citation

Te Punga Somerville, Alice, The measure of a man's worth (after MLK and the content of his
character) [poem], *Law Text Culture*, 15, 2011, 100-101.

Available at: <http://ro.uow.edu.au/ltc/vol15/iss1/6>

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Abstract

1. Small seeds tucked away, water stored, some dogs, a few rats look into the faces of relatives you will not see again for several hundred years sit quietly at night surrounded by constellations and a dizzying stretch of liquid the most humbling metaphor and word trick of them all: ocean-going vessels, blood vessels; genealogy and water mix in our part of the world

Somerville

**the measure of a man's worth
(after MLK and the content of his character)**

Alice Te Punga Somerville

1. Small

seeds tucked away, water stored, some dogs, a few rats
look into the faces of relatives you will not see again for several
hundred years
sit quietly at night surrounded by constellations and a
dizzying stretch of liquid
the most humbling metaphor and word trick of them all:
ocean-going vessels, blood vessels;
genealogy and water mix in our part of the world

2. Smaller

our poi make the sound of the horses which were met by children

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the horses
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Poem: The measure of a man's worth

whenever we remember the day the Crown morally defeated itself
we play a trick on time,
become our own ancestors and our own descendents:
we are those little kids,
we hold their poi.

3. Smallest

who consented to our belittlement?
we're shrink-wrapped, vacuum-packed, disassembled, sold for parts
you forget to measure, don't think to check, underestimate:

our ocean-going navigating vessels
will not fit
the whare you've built to house them