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a new generation of historians on flight NZ449 (for  
Aroha) [poem]

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**Abstract**

it's complimentary happy hour on NZ449: little plates of cheese, and wine or beer in plastic cups smiling people who can serve us in english, french or japanese even though there's a koru on the tail of this plane.

**a new generation of historians on flight NZ449  
(for Aroha)**

**Alice Te Punga Somerville**

it's complimentary happy hour on NZ449:  
little plates of cheese, and wine or beer in plastic cups

smiling people who can serve us in english, french or japanese  
even though there's a koru on the tail of this plane.

asinine questions for suburbandog millionaires on a monday afternoon  
small hanging screens

a trivia game, an opiate for the masses  
cycling through a series of claims about the world:

*which is further west: chad, oman or mali?*

and it's a dirty trick to play:

on a plane which speaks three languages  
from north of the equator;

on a world that isn't flat anymore,  
where everywhere is further west than  
somewhere.

## Somerville

a question about tommy solomon *the last full-blooded moriori*  
and it's a dirty trick to play:  
                  they expect noone from rekohu  
to decide between sav and merlot on this trip;  
                  a quiet dismantling,  
                          pruning unfruitful wood from national  
vines.

I have to fill this plane with other words.

writing on a sickbag, I wonder if these pencil marks  
would dissolve or be more stark  
if I filled the bag with what it is designed to hold:  
liquefied wests, regurgitated lasts.

We are, after all, in a plane with a koru on its tail.

We have to fill this plane with other words.