

# Semantics of Selfhood: A Bilinguacultural Poem

by Changming Yuan



Illustration by Bianca A. Cosar

## ***1/ I vs 我: Denotations***

The first person singular pronoun, or this very Writing subject in English is I , an only-letter Word, standing straight like a pole, always Capitalized, but in Chinese, it is written with Seven lucky strokes as 我 , with at least 108 Variations, all of which can be the object case At the same time.

Originally, it's formed from The character 我, meaning 'pursuing,' with one Stroke added on the top, which may well stand for Anything you would like to have, such as money Power, fame, sex, food, or nothing if you prove Yourself to be a Buddhist practitioner inside-out.

## ***2/ Human & 人: Connotations***

Since I feel the sunshine of humanity that had walked before me Underneath my toes as a human/人, I would rather not kneel down

When two humans walk side by side, why to coerce one Into obeying the other like a slave fated to follow/人人?

Since three humans can live together, do we really need The joystick values of fascism to determine our fate as a group/人人?

Given all the freedom I was born with, why Then why cage me within walls like a prisoner/人人?