



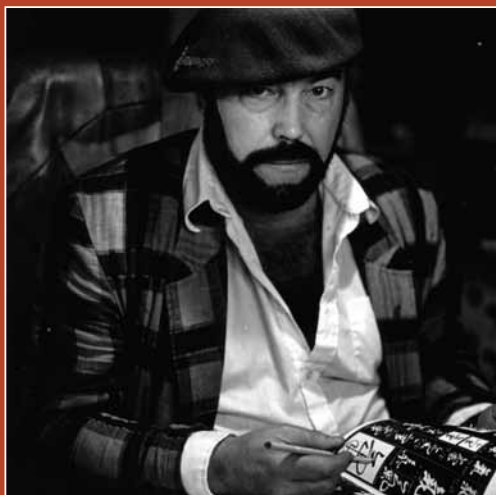
China-Y

中

E-book

Chinese characters
for everybody

by Hans Kisling



Introduction

Chinese characters for everybody

This is a free E-book, which gives you a glimpse of the whole China-Y book. It's an introduction to China-Y, a book ideal for learning chinese characters. 675 chinese characters in an artistic prespective. Almost 700 pages Chinese characters explained and visualised by various artists. Chinese script for everybody.

The Chinese script consists of thousands of characters. With the book China-Y, Chinese characters for everybody the author Hans Kisling describes 675 of them.

675 Chinese characters that have been explained, beginning with the Chinese character history, ending with modern Chinese script. In the book you experience the development through the ages. The characters are also illustrated by a work of art, and a literary text that fit the character and often add a further explanation. The rich Chinese cultural history is explained character by character and therefore comprehensible for the westerner.

A book to get a grip on the Chinese script. But also a gorgeous book to take the first steps towards learning to recognize the Chinese signs. Handy when you want to learn Chinese characters, or if you plan to travel to China. The book is written in English of a clear and comprehensible nature.

Art lovers have also discovered China-Y, Chinese characters for everybody. In addition to the explanation of the Chinese characters they appreciate it as a fascinating coffee-table book. Every page brings a surprise. With more than 100 artists participating, a rich variation is guaranteed in this Chinese art book.

China-Y, Chinese characters for everybody is an absolute must for book lovers, art lovers and China experts, or for those who want to become one. And after the Olympic Games in Beijing, China-Y, Chinese characters for everybody remains very relevant and an essential addition to your library.

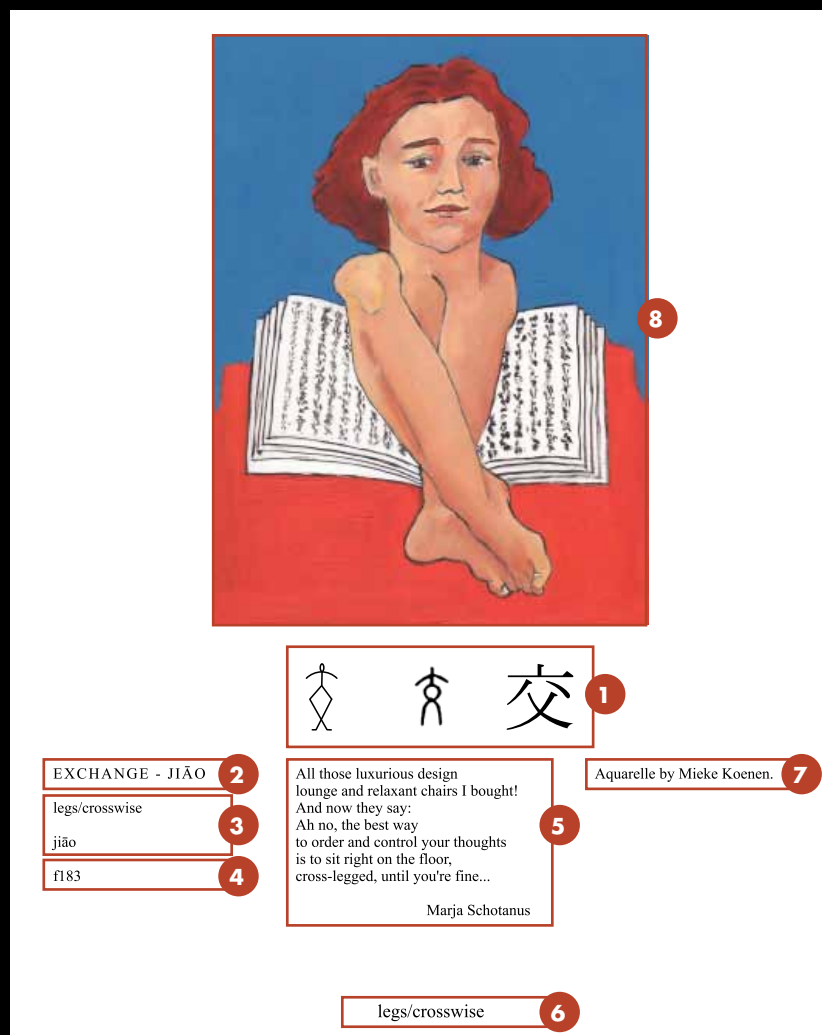
For more information about Hans Kisling, his study and the book China-Y go to www.china-y.com

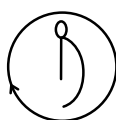
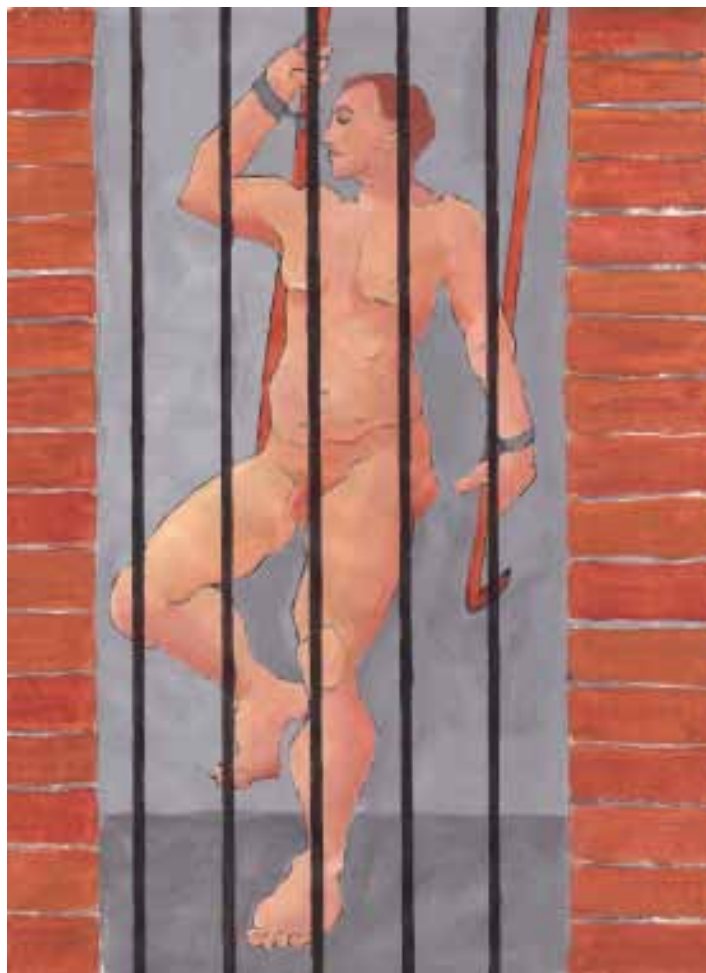
How the signs are explained

These are introduced by auxiliary pages with prefaces by leading sinologists, explanatory notes, references and the manual of the book. China-Y closes with a list of contributors, short biographies of the main participants, and a large index of graphs, keywords and names.

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. The character history | 5. The decorative text |
| 2. The meaning | 6. The keyword |
| 3. The bridge | 7. Additional information |
| 4. The formula, the paradigm | 8. Illustration |

For more information about the structure go to the website www.china-y.com





IMPRISON - QIÚ

surrounding (enclosed) + person
= arrested person

wéi + rén = qiú

r31 + r9 = fsn

The pious persons
supply food
to the poor,
the widows
and prisoners

Koran

Aquarelle by Mieke Koenen.

◦
Compare to 'prisoner'.

arrested person

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ENTER - RÙ

take root

rù

r11

Macadam, macadam
as far as you see
Under each fissure
the roots of a tree

Photo by Ruud Broese.

Ad Beenackers
(tr. Baruch)

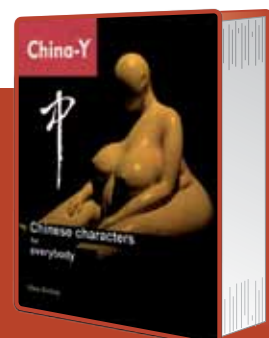
take root

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BURNT - JIĀO

bird + fire = roasting-bird*

zhuī + huǒ = jiāo

r172 + r86 = f669

Bird in me...
wing up now
from the scorched branches

H. Marsman

Drawing on oiled paper by Jildou
Henni.

roasting-bird*

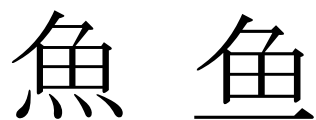
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FISH - YÚ

fish

yú

r195

Fishing in autumn -
as if my body slowly
slides into the water

Ad Beenackers

Illustration by my youngster
Oetze, 4 years old.

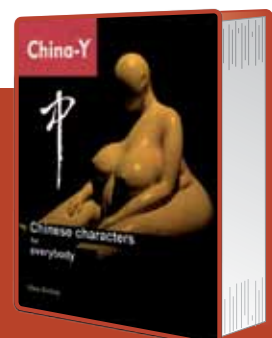
fish

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𠂇 𠂇 孚

INSPIRE CONFIDENCE - FÚ

'to cherish a young one'

little hand N.E. (protecting hand)
+ sprout (above child) = brood

zhǎo + zǐ = fú

r87 + r39 = f270

As yet you have one, leaving
me behind with my castle,
where I once was king
amongst kings

even now these thick walls
will brood on me
for my shell is not broken

Volken B. de Vlas

Photo by Xabré.

。 I Ching 61.
Component of sprout + water.

brood

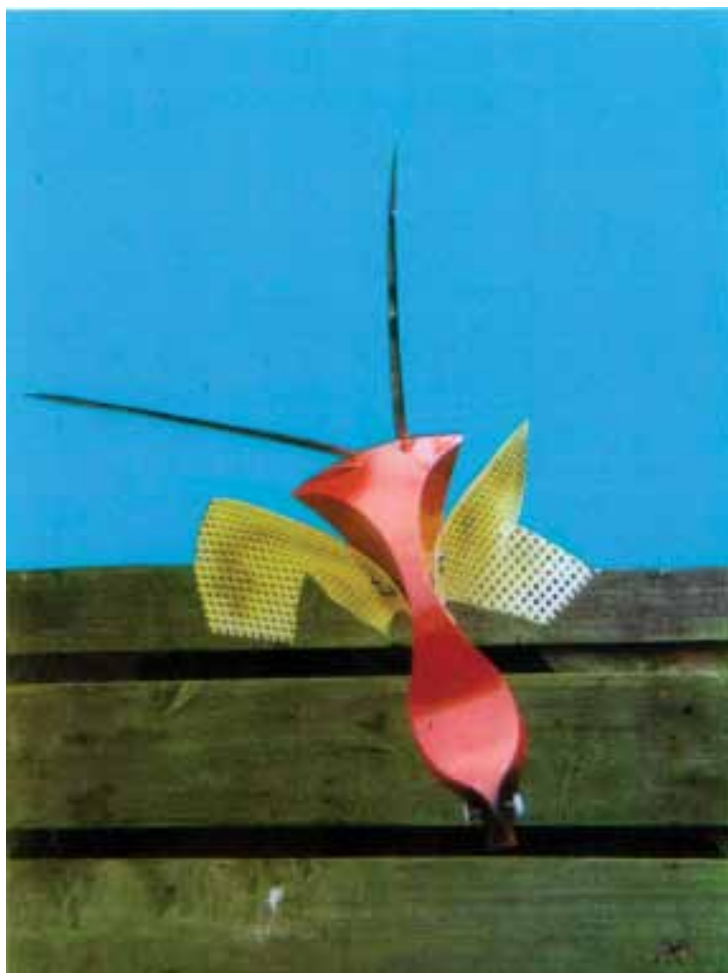
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TILL - ZHÌ

bird 'nose-diving'
+ earth = fly down

rsn + tǔ = zhì

rsn + r32 = r133/f186

Advent

Lo! He comes with clouds descending
Once for favoured sinners slain
Thousand, thousand Saints attending
Swell the triumph of His train:
Alleluia!
Christ appears on earth again

T. Clivers

Figure by Xabri entitled 'Flying-
lesson to a chicken'.
Made of a console and a grating.

fly down

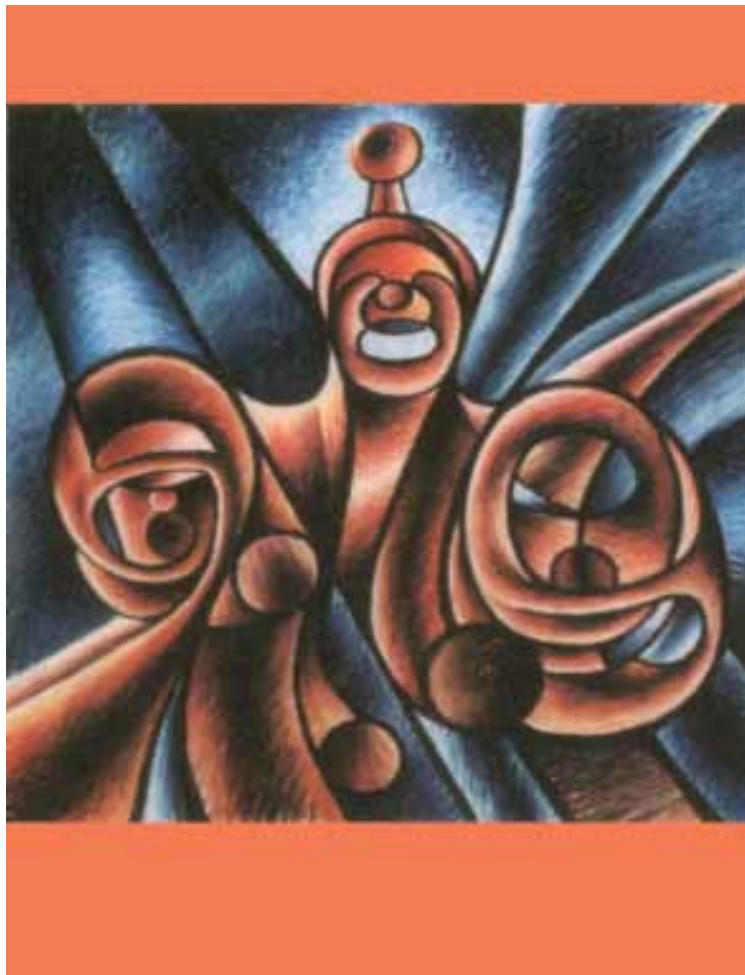
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夾 夾 夾 夾

CLASP IN BETWEEN - JIǎ

person/tall + twosome (holding 2 persons) = clinch > person/tall + person 2x = clinch

dà + rsn = jiǎ > dà + cóng = jiǎ

r37 + rsn = f257 > r37 + r9 (2x)

Consolation
on his strolls,
minnesinger's
blowjob dolls

Pastel by Gerrit Cnossen.

Gerrit Cnossen
(tr. Baruch)

clinch

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SLAVE (GIRL) - NÚ

woman + little hand (supervised)
= slave (female)

nǚ + yòu = nú

r38 + r29 = f141

as my dearest slave called Shiva
kneeled for me and took my legs
I deeply wanted to hold her
but it was Great Dictator's Day
so I hurt her more then I can say

Klaske Hiemstra

Painting by Dennis Reelick.

slave (female)

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DAYBREAK - DÀN

'sun climbs above the horizon'

sun + surface of the earth = dawn

rì + yī = dàn

r72 + r1 = f162

Ranee, commiseration
Star of the morning
Mystical rose on me
Mary... remain nay my cradle
The gloom of a nightmare
Decharms my soul

Baruch

Photo by Xabré of the interior of
a grain funnel.

dawn

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TILE - Wǎ

tile*2x + object*(mortar) = tiles

wǎ

r98

Roofing-tile of human dwellings
moulded handwork out of mud
Scarlet colours nobly offer
brush of joy to ev'ry hut.

Tito Silva
(tr. Baruch)

Photo by Ruud Broese.

tiles

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(herd of swine) - SUÍ

partition (scattered, numerous) +
pig = herd of swine

bā + shǐ = suí

r12 + r152 = rsn/fsn

The pig is a symbol
of the desire - mind
or desire - nature
which seeks it's food
in matter

G.A. Gaskell

(But it is also a positive, astrological
symbol)

Swine-figure built by Marins
Hettinga, 8 years old.

◦
Part of 'rampart + herd of swine'.

herd of swine

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GRASS - CǎO

2 grass-blades

little plant 2x = plants

chè 2x = cǎo

r45 (2x) = r140

A diet running riot

Humpty-dumpty asked one of his aunts,
who grew and nursed flesh-eating plants:
“Why are you so slim, Bea?”
She said: “Sun-dew so trims me
and it gives my stuffing full grants”

Nicholas Eastend

Leaded window by Monique Verbruggen.

◦
This one is a component of
countless characters related to
plants.

plants

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𠂇 𠂇 兵

MILITARY - BĬNG

manual labour (sway) + axe
(battle axe) = hacking at

gǒng + jīn = bīng

r55 + r69 = rsn

Every Saturday
the axe and I spent hours
of splitting logs for grandfather
That drizzly day in December
when I broke it
(I'll get you a chainsaw, no worries)
I
could not let it go

Painting by Siebe Boersma.

Alric van den Broek

hacking at

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HEART - XĪN

heart

xīn

r61/f61

The HEART
of the PEOPLE
searches in WORDS
the SPIRIT
of its FAITH

Bronze by Ineke Ekkers.

Most frequent words
in the Bible

°
Component of innumerable
characters.

heart

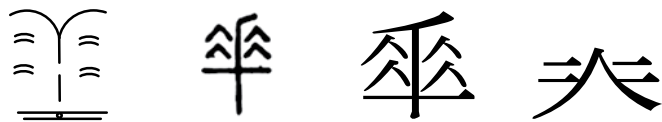
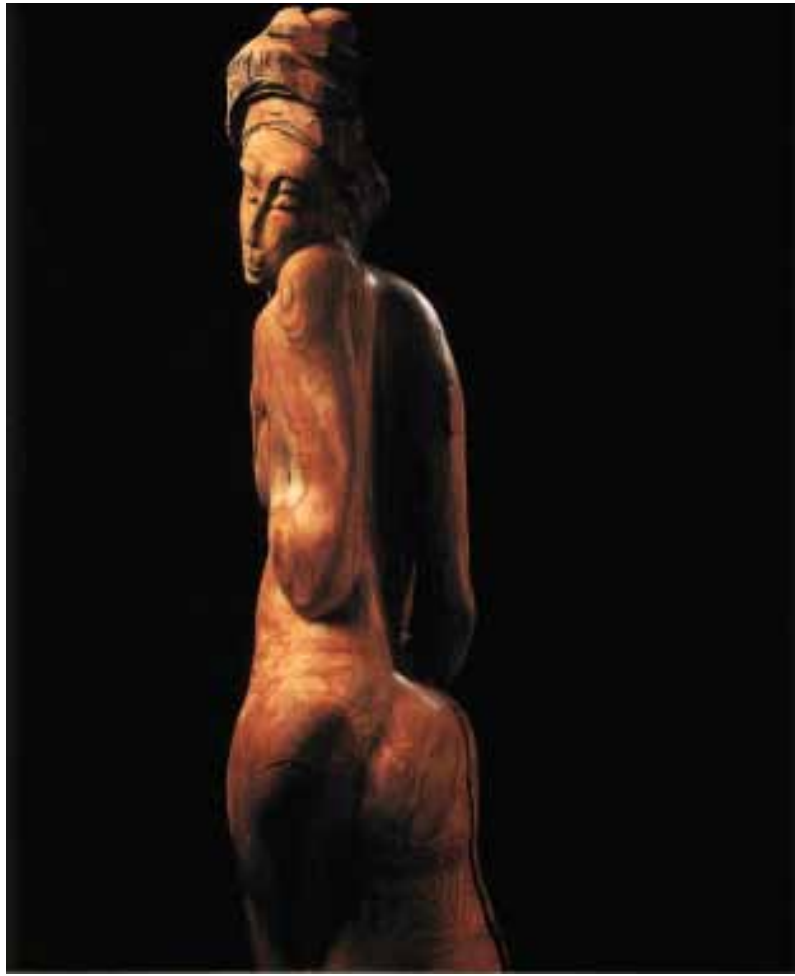
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BACK, SPINE - GUĀI

muscular back with girdle

back

guāi

rsn

Get off my back,
said the woman to her ex,
though I know it is still rather dashy
Now, don't be cruel, love, be sweet
You're so delectable, a treat,
to hungry me your back is so fleshy!

Jan Schotanus

Sculpture by Hanneke Roelofsen.

。 Component of 'back + meat'.

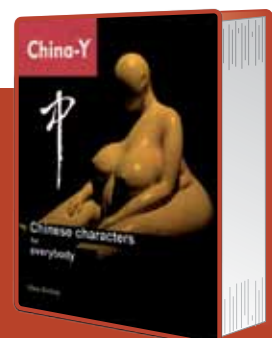
back

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EXCHANGE - JIĀO

legs/crosswise

jiāo

f183

All those luxurious design
lounge and relaxant chairs I bought!
And now they say:
Ah no, the best way
to order and control your thoughts
is to sit right on the floor,
cross-legged, until you're fine...

Marja Schotanus

Aquarelle by Mieke Koenen.

legs/crosswise

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𡗗 𡗗 𡗗

WEAK - CHÁN

person/seated (abdomen) + sprout
3x = labour fatigues

shī + chuān = chán

r44 + r39 (3x) = fsn

Jerusalem, thou hast forsaken me,
said the Lord

I will stretch out my hand
and destroy thee

She that hath born seven
languishes:

she hath given up the ghost

Painting by Jan Bouma.

The Bible

labour fatigues

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I, WE - WŎ

'inner struggle'

yin-yang of the ego

gē 2x = wǒ

r62 (2x) = rsn/f297

Canine hysteria in my marrow:
memories as fighting hounds
torn to pieces, leaving painful
bloody traces on the grounds

Suffocating tracks of scruples
conflagrate my inner core
lake nor river can extinguish
the hidden fire of my sore

Duplication of a bronze by David
van Kampen.

Tito Silva
(tr. Baruch)

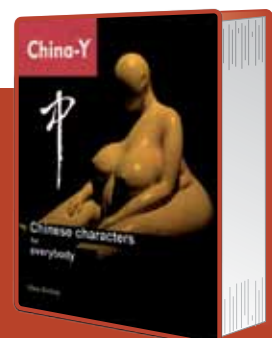
inner struggle

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爭 爭 爭

CONTEND, STRUGGLE - ZHĒNG

little hand NE + string*+ little
hand = tug of war

zhǎo + rsn + yòu = zhēng

r87 + rsn + r29 = f324

Nothing is more useless than
two people pulling on both ends
of one rope

it's usually
the rope that wins in the end

Roger Wind

Body painting by Hans
Hilbrands.
Model: Lyda. Photo by Theo
Berends.

。 Often in combination with 'at
grips'.

tug of war

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SHORTTAILED BIRD - ZHUĪ

bird

zhuī

r172/f344

How bashful
the call of the cuckoo
in the coldness of winter

Ad Beenackers

Figure by Xabré entitled 'Flying
farmer'. It is an erected
ploughmachine.

bird

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WHITE - BÁI

rising sun

sun + increase* = sunlight

rì + gǔn = bái

r72 + r2 = r106/f143

when the sunlight is locked up
in the golden egg
watched by the hairy goats
the seven ravens will occur
to free the light
for mankind's sake

Klaske Hiemstra

Food composition by my
youngster Jorre, 4 years old.

。

Also explained as 'whitish flesh
of an acorn' or as 'pointed
thumbnail'.

sunlight

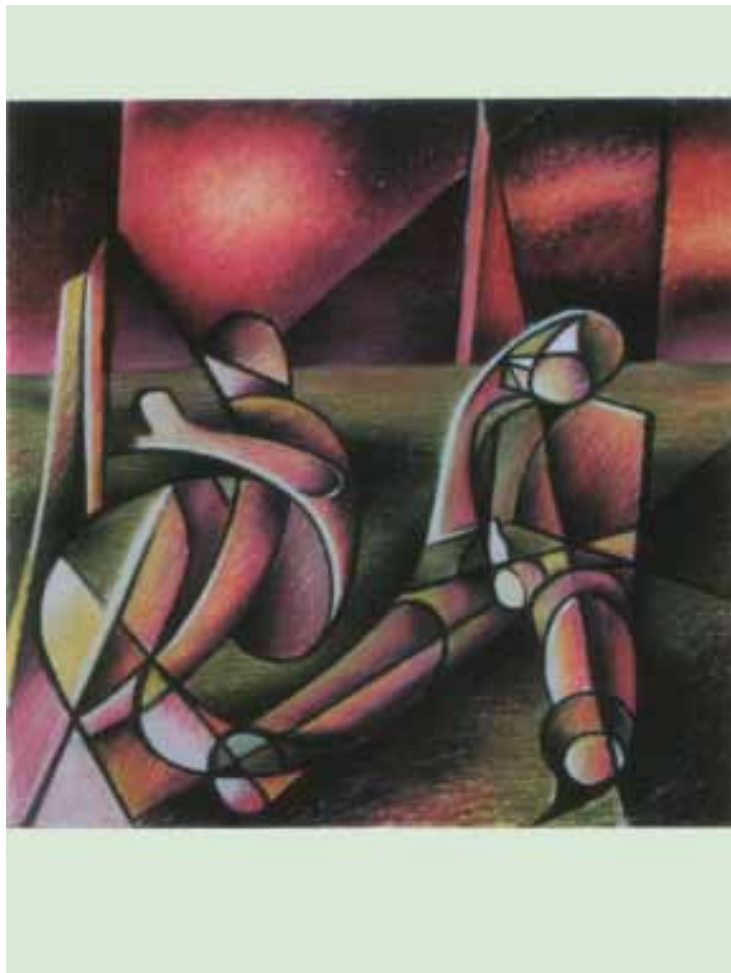
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NORTH - BĚI

'antipoles'

person + person/turned = back to back

rén + bǐ = běi

r9 + r21 = rsn

Amazing
how a dexter backbone
supports the spine
of tensive left

Pastel by Gerrit Cnossen.

Gerrit Cnossen
(tr. Baruch)

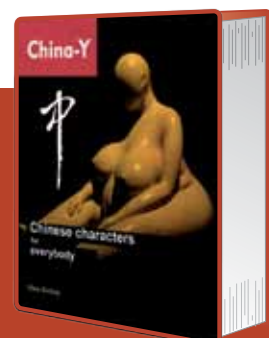
back to back

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代 族

SUBSTITUTE - DÀI

'heir apparent'
'lance-bearer'

person + thrust weapon a =
soldier a

rén + yì = dài

r9 + r56 = f161

In the days of the Renaissance
Soldiers ... Crusaders by another Name
Crusading for their Country
Crusading for their Lord
Crusading for Truth and Justice
Or crusading for the Sword

Jim 'Elmo' Elkins and Sherry A. Jacob

Body painting by Hans
Hilbrands.

soldier a

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WRAP - BĀO

person/bent + embryo = womb

bāo + sì = bāo

r20 + rsn = f145

Merely ten weeks he had grown
Johanneske inside
His genesis came to an end
in memmy's womb he died

A miracle abandoned life
Chimeras set him free
we buried him at twilight time
under the apple-tree

Baruch

Oil painting by Douwe Elias.

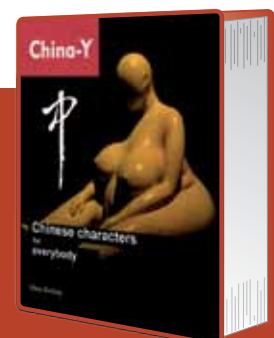
womb

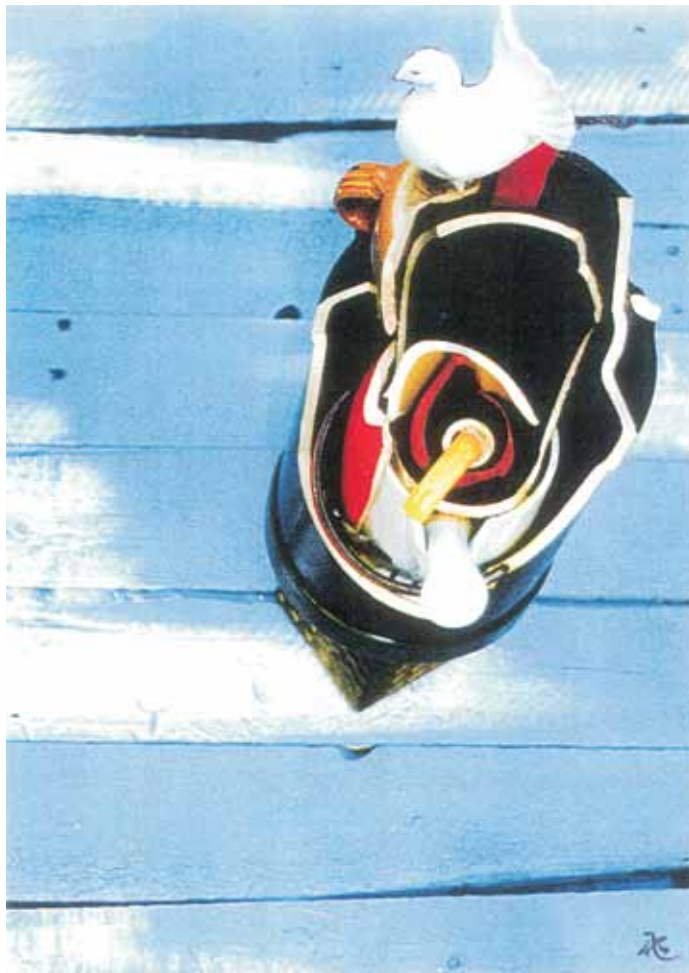
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WEST - XĪ

(sunset, get asleep)

bird (short version) + nest* =
bird's nest

niǎo + rsn = xī

r172 + rsn = r146

In swinging rings
we raise a nest
and lofty fly
in fancy rest

Simy Sevenster
(tr. Baruch)

Figure by Xabré, made of
potsherds called 'La Paloma'.

◦
Compare to 'tree-nest'.

bird's nest

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MILK - Rǔ

breast feeding

brooding (cherishing) + breast
(feeding)

fú + rsn

rsn + rsn

The mother to the tender child
leaves overflowing creams
It adores the fountain breast
She shelters while it dreams

Tito Silva
(tr. Baruch)

Paper cut-out by Xabrí on a
background by Maya Robbestad,
4 years old.

。

The 'breast' is also explained as a
'birth-channel'.

brooding + breast

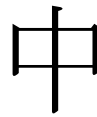
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CENTRE, CHINA - ZHŌNG

'middle of the earth'

arrow + target* = central

gǔn + kǒu = zhōng

r2 + r30 = f52

Once the earth is covered with people
an arrow will come from the sky
and make a grave
And men will circle round the grave,
arousing a vortex,
crying, for many, many years

Volken B. de Vlas

Garden object by Xabré.

Composed of an iron broom, a
tube and two lampshades.

Erotic object, hidden in the bush.

o

I Ching 61.

As many characters, this one is
composed of a male part, yang
(arrow) and a female part, yin
(target, aperture).

It has many explanation

central

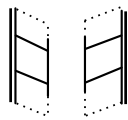
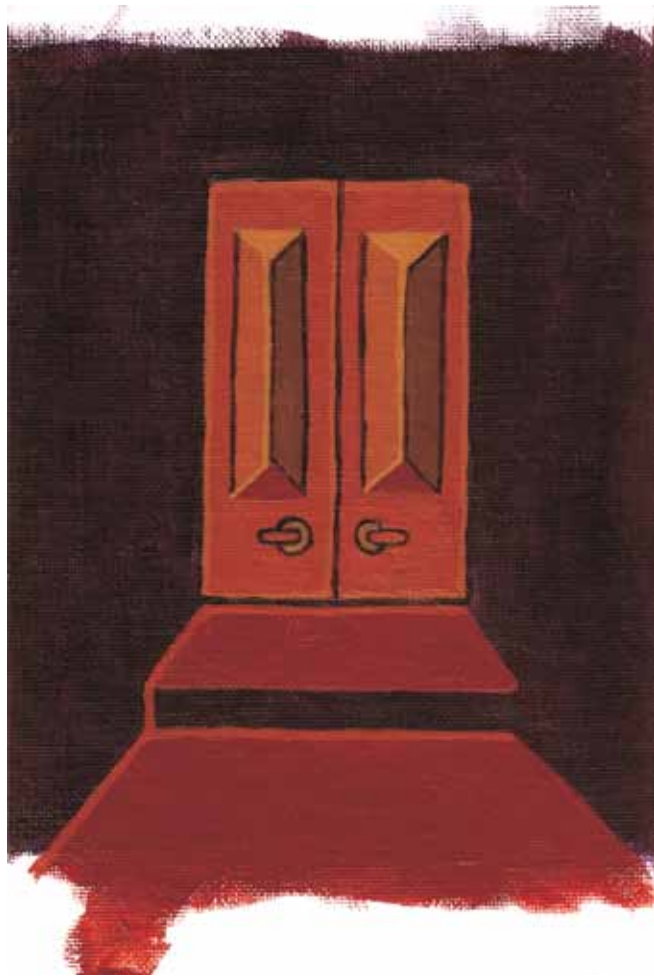
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DOOR - MÉN

closed door with 2 door leaves

door leaf + door leaf E = door

hū + ě = mén

r63 + rsn = r169/f381

Take a trip to a little
introspection
and don't bolt the
doors of perception

Jan Schotanus

Acrylic painting by Siebe
Boersma.

◦
A closed door is also depicted as
an open door with a cross-beam
on top.

door

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HORSE - Mǎ

horse with mane

horse

mǎ

r187/f552

Thunder on, you silver stallions
Let your plunging, flying hooves
Strike and ring against the sky
Fly, oh stallions, fly

W. Berry

Figure by Xabré called 'Plateiro'.
Serves as a trestle.

◦
Also 'quick'.

horse

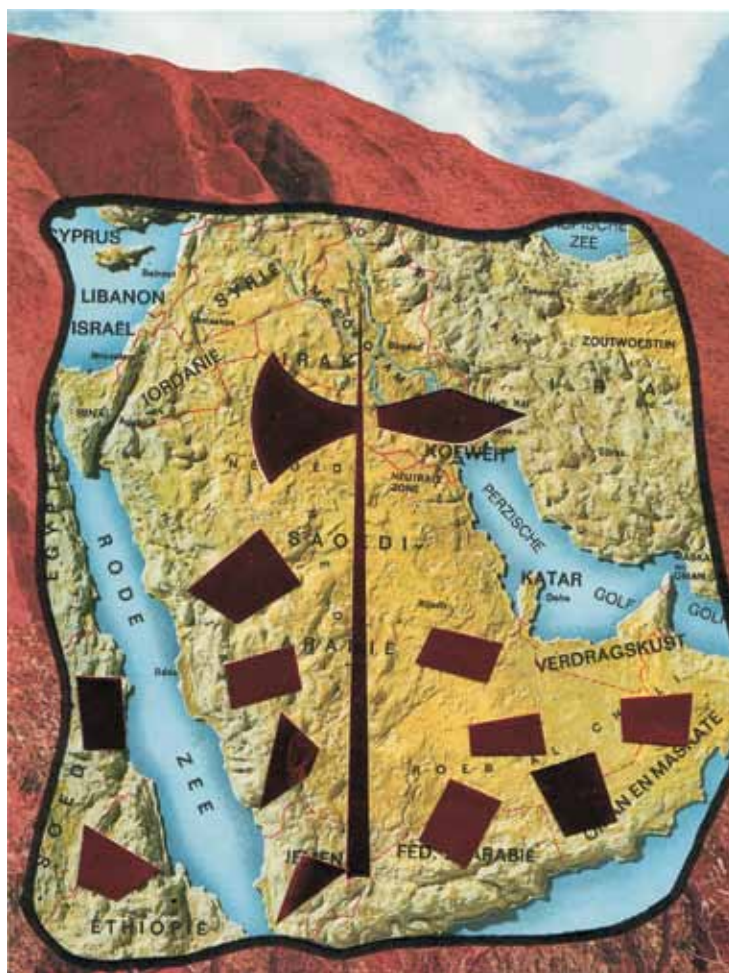
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COUNTRY - GUÓ

around (frontiers) + thrust
 weapon (defended) + around
 (houses) + surface of the earth
 (plots) = land > around + jewel

weí + gē + wéi + yī = guó >
 wéi + yù

r31 + r62 + r31 + r1 = f625 >
 r31 + r95

The land of dreams
 is to all a host country
 for inhabitants of developing countries
 for inhabitants of affluent countries
 and for nobody a foreign country

Murielle Lucie Clément

Collage by Xabré.

°
 As a joke the dot is sometimes
 placed outside the square. Then it
 represents the island(s) of
 Taiwan.

land

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MOTHER - Mŭ

woman + breasts* = mother

nǚ + rsn = mǔ

r38 + rsn = rsn/f139

Mumsy
I cannot endure
that you're dried up,
crooked, worn

W. Elsschot
(tr. Baruch)

Sculpture by Jan Bouma, entitled
'My love'.
Photo by Alfred Oosterman.

mother

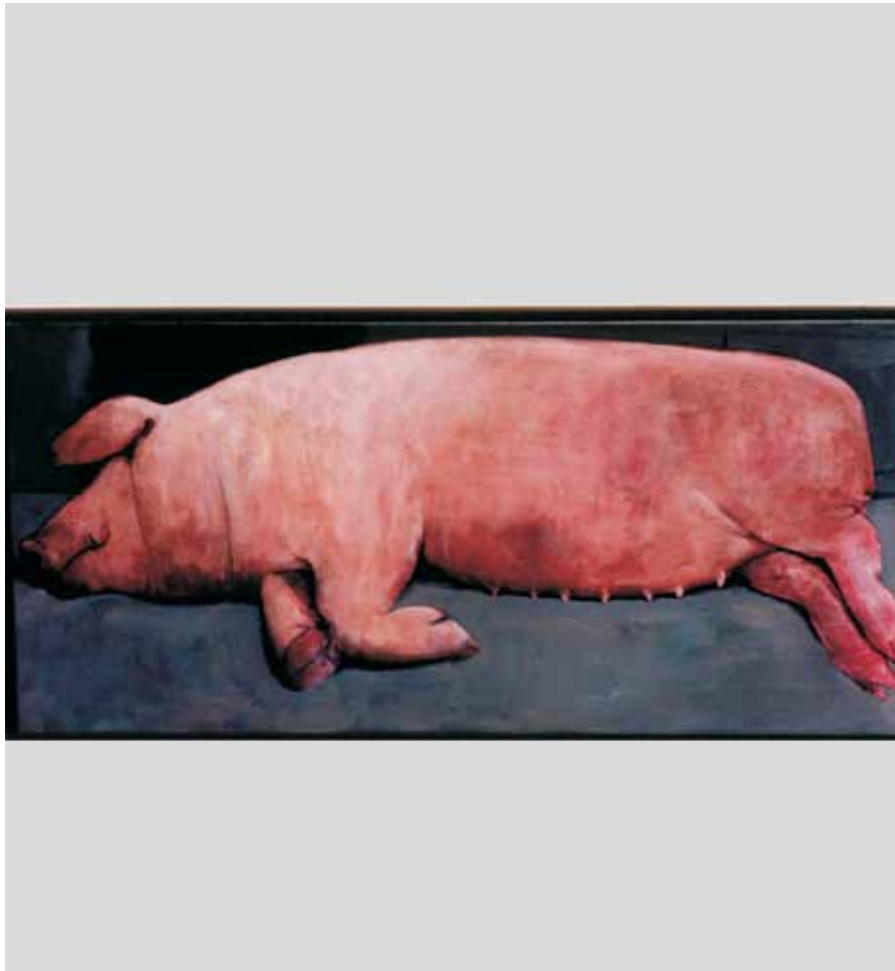
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PIG - SHĚ

pig

shě

r152

Butcher's wife:

All members of the pig are used
My husband, damned, is blunt,
wants only some ingredients:
my bosom and my cunt

Ad Beenackers
(tr. Baruch)

Oil painting by Pieter Pander.

。 Part of a.o. 'farm', 'herd of swine'.

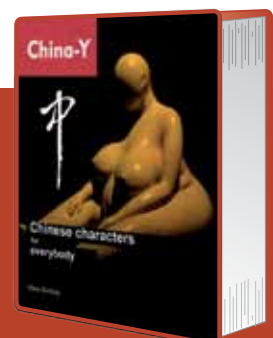
pig

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PAUSE - XIŪ

rest under a tree

person + tree = relaxing

rén + mù = xiū

r9 + r75 = f205

Leisures are the lashing
of the labouring eye

Rabindranath Tagore

Elaborated photo of Marja
Schotanus by her husband.

◦

Properly, a reading woman is
'absurd', because they were
generally illiterate.

relaxing

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SHEEP - YÁNG

sheep/goat

yáng

r123/f248

Gritty grass...
the goat in sierra
Fleshy verdures...
sheep on green
A silken breeze
braces the dawning:
a Maytime lovesong
to the scene

Tito Silva
(tr. Baruch)

Computer painting by Marcel
Alberts.

◦
This character appears in
numerous compositions.

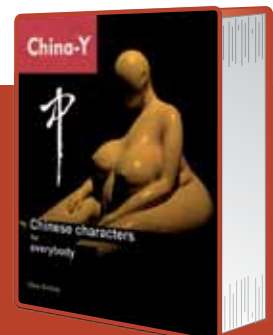
sheep/goat

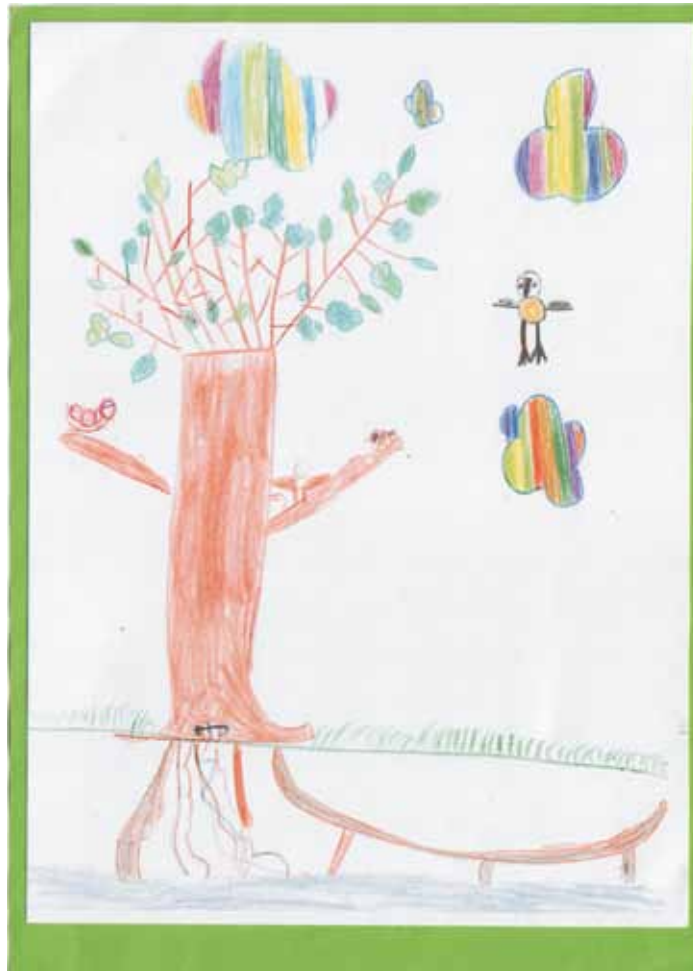
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WOOD - MÙ

tree

mù

r75/fsn

The tree stood lonely in the wood
trying to find out how it could
ever hope to reach the heart
of the forest
It sends out signals with its roots
but forest trees wear heavy boots

Design by Auke Manderfeld,
6 years old.

Jan Schotanus

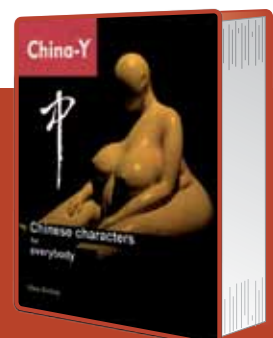
tree

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QUARREL - JIǎN

rivalry

woman 2x

nǚ 2x

r38 (2x)

Women should not ridicule
other women
These might be better

Koran

Painting on two saws by Xabri
called 'Gnash'.

◦
Compare to 'woman 2x a'.
Two women in an equal (graphic)
position = quarrel. Two women in
hierarchical order = harmony,
beauty.
Harem logics?

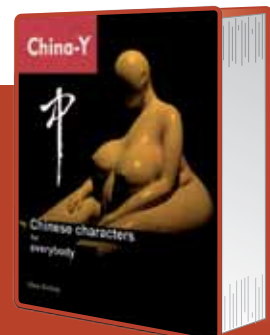
woman 2x

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(beautiful) - JIǎO

woman 2x (vertically placed)

nǚ 2x

r38 (2x)

Why, if two gods should play some heavenly match,
And on the wager lay two earthly women,
And Portia one: there must be something else
Pawned with the other, for the poor rude world
Hath not her fellow

Shakespeare

woman 2x (a)

Photo by Ruud Broese.
Model: Dina Lauren.

◦
Unusual character.
Compare to 'woman 2x'.
It seems that a vertical arrangement (hierarchy) leads to harmony and beauty, an horizontal, equal order t
quarrels.

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MARRIAGE - YĪN

woman + (phon) prisoner

nǚ + yīn

r38 + fsn

Serranilla's prey

I was defenceless on the ground
her boots upon my breast
And tantalized a century
the cyclop neath her chest
Don't torture me, just apprehend
my naked flesh and bones
and squeeze me killing to your arms
your brawny thighs and cones

Anthony Greenpad

Allegory by David van der Kuur,
12 years old, (woman) and Elisa
Tichelaar, 11 years old, (cage).

◦

Explanations:

- Woman with her prisoner, the man
- Woman as a prisoner
- Dependent woman
- Woman + phonetic.

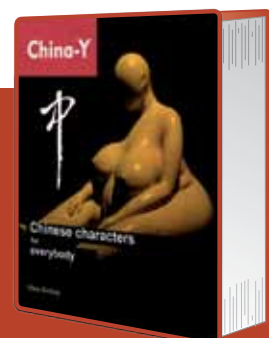
woman + (prisoner)

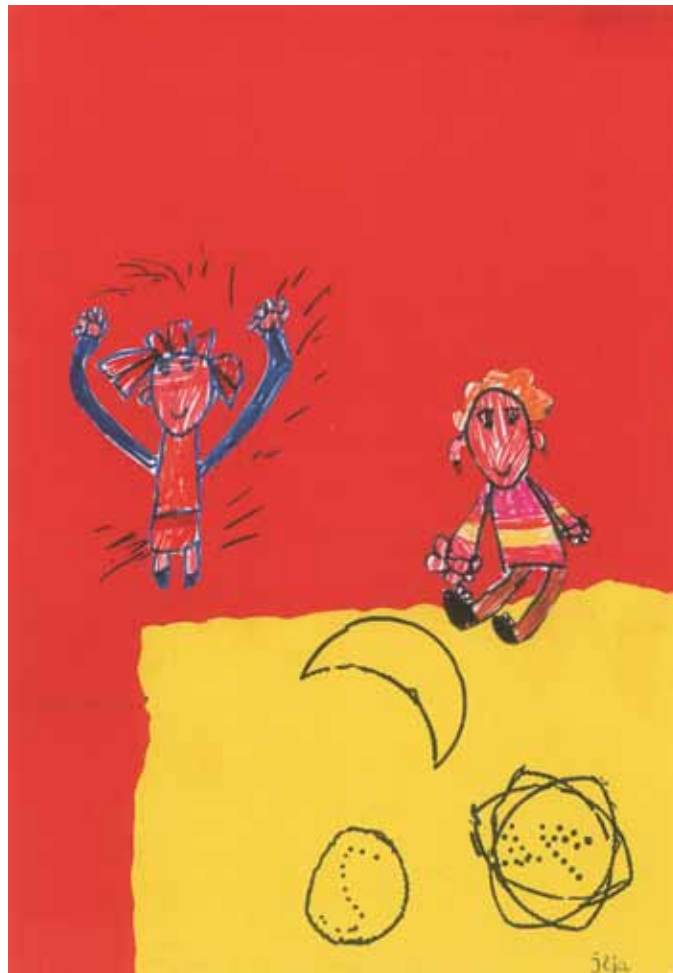
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女 子 好 好

GOOD - Hǎo

'maternal love'

woman + sprout + (child)

nǚ + zǐ

r38 + r39

O that we had not
killed and stoned the prophets,
and cast them out; then would
our mothers and our fair daughters,
and our children have been spared

Book of Mormon

Design by Ilja Huitema, 7 years
old.

。 "Nǐ hǎo?" means "You good?" or
"How are you?", title of a
television course by Han Yong,
late top-sinologist in Leiden.

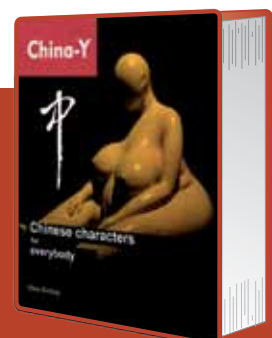
woman + sprout

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PEACEFUL - 安

'seclusion'

woman + roof (in menstruation hut) = woman's hut

nǚ + mián = ān

r38 + r40 = f176

Rest

Lethargic of limb, my body supine,
images wander through my mind
My drive is spent, my soul content
Rest, if permanent, is perdition
This rest, I know, is just transition
The bliss lies in the simple fact
that I'll be called again to act

Lisa van Schaick Banning

woman's hut

Door painting by Hans Hilbrands.

Menstruation huts are still in use in Africa, Surinam and other parts of the world. It's also biblical to consider women during their period as 'd 'stupid'.

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