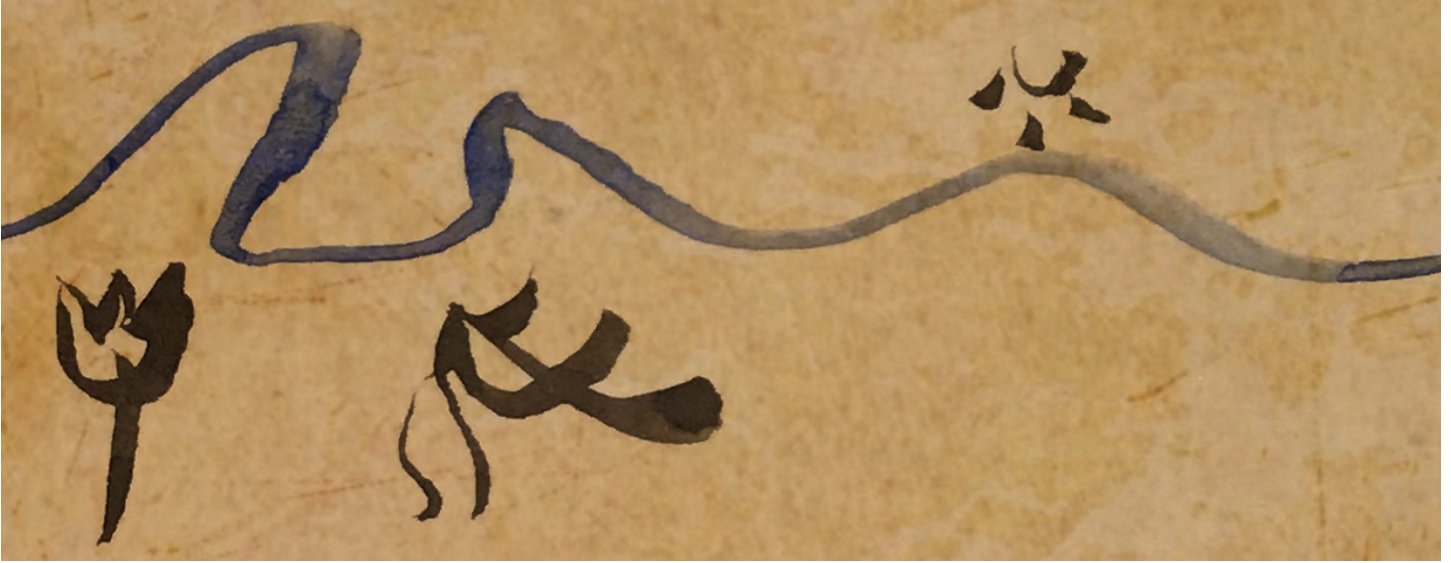# Yomoal

Yomoal, "symbol river," renders words as rivers. Yomoal [joˈmo:al] was devised by Anthony Hilton to write his invented language Ʉlalmwae [ʈlalˈmwa:e]. For another time and place, it writes the same language as [Þlaéhl](). Gordon Lewis' suggestions and practical help realizing examples were inestimable. Gordon also did all the art on this page; he can be reached for art commissions at glewis at berkeley.edu. Yomoal is part of a larger world construction project that Anthony has been working on since 2011.

In Yomoal vowels are primary and consonants are secondary, unlike writing systems such as abjads and abugidas, which make consonants primary.

Yomoal Vowels

The river curves with vowels.

- "Left" and "right" take a "looking upriver" perspective. So, when written top-to-bottom as in these examples, left is the reader's left. When written left-to-right, as in the nameplate, "right" is above the river.
- The river curves about an invisible midline. The river is usually continuous within utterances, like a river.
- Three, two-way features distinguish curves into different vowels: direction, sharpness, and islands.

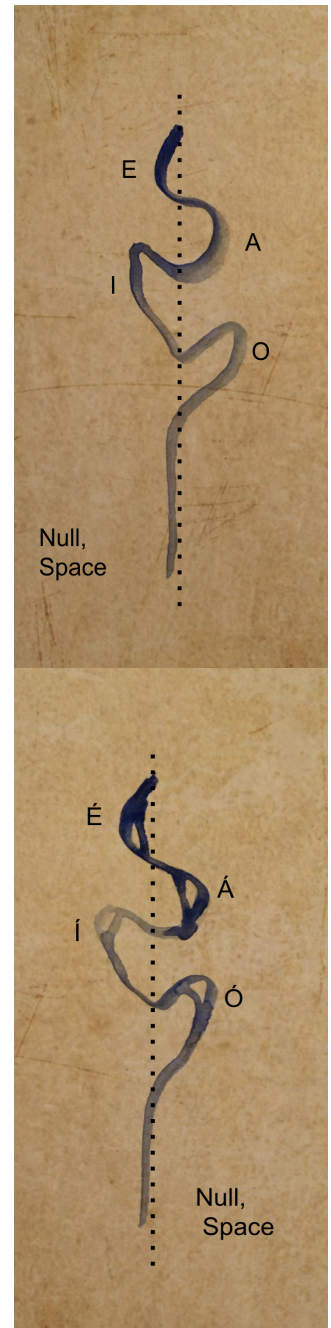Curve direction and sharpness distinguish the four vowels.

- Curving left/right is the first feature. Smoothly curving left of the midline makes E; and right, A.
- Combining with direction, next is sharpness. A sharp curve "doubles back." Sharp-left makes I; sharp-right, O. Placing the sharp turn at the beginning or end of the curve is purely stylistic.
- The river runs straight to make a space or to make a null vowel. A null vowel lets (four) consonants stand alone, as in English "Mmm!"

An island indicates length and stress on a vowel.

- This is analogous in Ҹlalmwae to the accent in Spanish.
- Normally a null vowel could not need an island.

Pictured is the word 'ɪoɪ' (ee.OH.ee; spin).
- Sharp-left for I.
- Sharp-right for O.
- Sharp-left for I.

Yomoal Consonants

One sees consonants on the way down river.

Yomoal Symbol: Transcription [IPA, if different]: Ɥlalmwae name: English translation:

M: ᴍɪᴄɪɴ: the fish

N: ɴʏᴏᴛ: the staff

Ŋ [ŋ̊]: ɴᴇᴛᴇ: the boulder

P: ᴘᴇᴅʜʏᴇ: the chimney

T: ᴛɪᴀᴍᴏ́ɴʟ: the dancer

Ɥ [t̄]: ɥᴡᴇɴ: the moon

C [k]: ᴄɪɴʜʏᴇ: the star

H: ʜᴏɪŋᴛᴡᴇ: the ibis

Þ [θ]: þᴏᴘ: the snake

Ð [ð]: ᴅᴡᴀɴᴅʏᴀŋ: the beast

Y [j]: ʏᴀᴏʟ: the flower

L: ʟᴇᴅɪ: the sun

W: ᴡᴀŋ: the frog

Consonants sit along the river's curves, adding to the vowels' syllables.
- Syllable-initial consonants sit left of the river; codas sit right.
- Consonant blends sit consonants together beside the river. How they are positioned on the same side of the river does not matter because in Ɥlalmwae, no two consonants can make two different blends.
- In arranging the consonants together or with the river, the scribe may express himself. E.g., flowers may always angle toward a sun, fish may have exaggerated whiskers, or fish may swim upriver.

Pictured is the word 'ɴᴏᴀʟᴄᴡᴇ' (no.AHL.kwey; gratitude).

- "The staff," N, sits left of the sharp-right O: "no."
- "The sun," L, sits right of the curve-right A: "al."
- "The star and frog," CW, sit left of the curve-left E: "cwe."

Pictured is the word 'ɪᴘʏᴀ́ɴᴇᴘᴀʜᴡᴀ́ʟ' (ee.THYA.ney.tha.HWAL; poetry).

- The sharp-left I has no consonants.
- "The snake and flower" ÞY, sit right of the island-right Á.
- "The staff," N, sits left of the curve-left E.
- "The snake," Þ, sits left of the curve-right A.
- "The frog and ibis," HW, sit left of the island-right A, with "the sun" across the river.
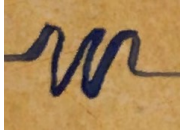
<u>Format</u>

Yomoal sentences may be written several ways. For material efficiency, they may be written in lines parallel to each other, as English does. For artistic, ceremonial, or other high-status purposes, Yomoal should be written as a river with the relationships among the thoughts expressed by the relationship among the streams. E.g., the tributary of a contrasting point may join the main stream flowing toward "upriver" (e.g., the river flows "south" and this tributary joins flowing "northward"). See Punctuation.
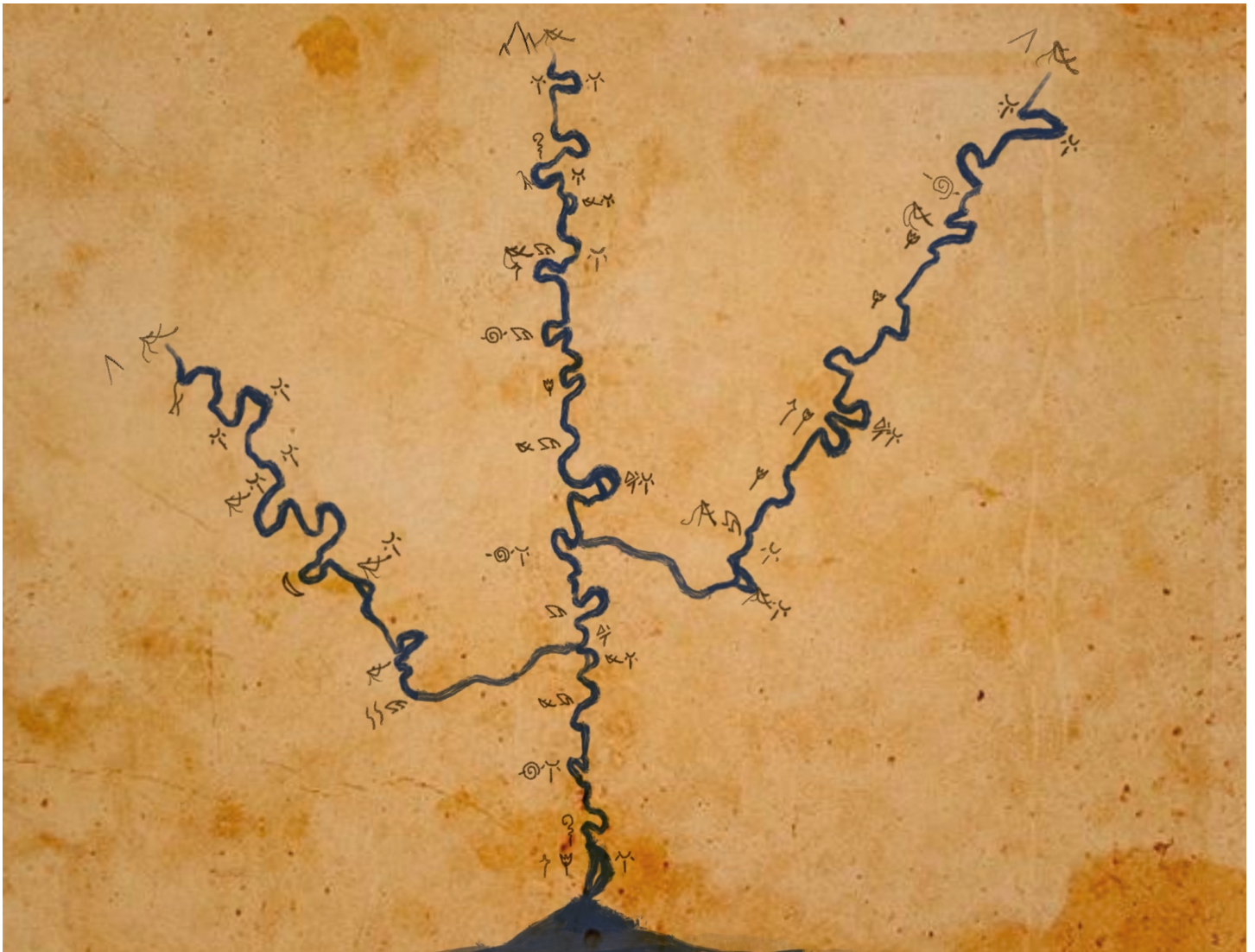
<u>Punctuation</u>

Relationships among multiple streams perform many functions of punctuation. Other characters, such as the mountain and the sea, help orient the page. In English, it is normal to always indicate both the beginning and end of a thought. In Yomoal, this is fine, and when the thought is clear enough without all possible marks, that's also fine.
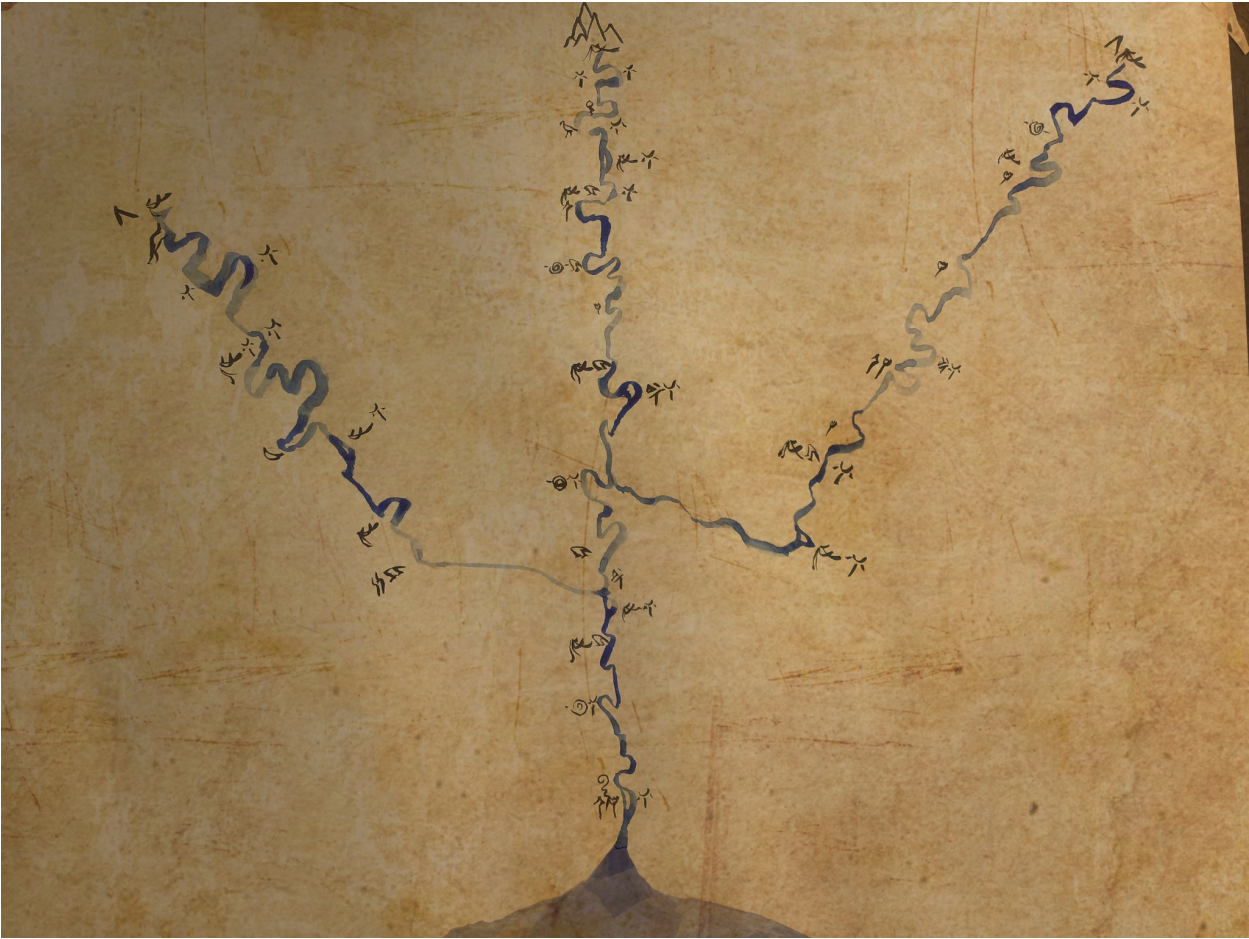
<u>Function</u>	**<u>In English</u>**	**<u>In Yomoal</u>**	**<u>Symbol (if any)</u>**
Beginning	Capital	Mountain with peak at start of river, left-off-center to indicate E/I	
Stop	.	Incoming wave or other indication of the sea	
Link elements	, ;	Tributaries join the river nearby each other, don't converge	
Similarity	;	Tributaries converge with each other flowing from the same direction	
Contrast	; /	Tributaries converge, flowing from opposite directions	
Soft parenthetical	, (	Parallel stream	
Hard parenthetical, specify, quote	— : "	Cataract(s either side) A parallel name ascribes a quote.	
Emphatic stop	!	Cataract ending	--^
Omission	...	Break the river	
Question	?	None: done grammatically with 'N.'	

"Article 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights" in English and Ɥlalmwae, with Yomoal text following:

All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.

M.lol þohiláml mwalci twiayo mwaeónl tli woanámlmwae tli þocyál. M.lol itemoya ya ionlcyo ya mwaláml. M.ðalol mlalioɥiáml mopwe.

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