Dscript

http://dscript.ca

All Human Beings Are Born Free

What is Dscript?

Dscript is a "Dimensional Script". The D was originally meant to represent "Directional" because the first version was designed as a cursive writing system that could be drawn both vertically and horizontally.

There is no particular language associated with Dscript, but there is an alphabet optimized for English. There are plenty of materials also teaching how to adapt it to other alphabets and languages.
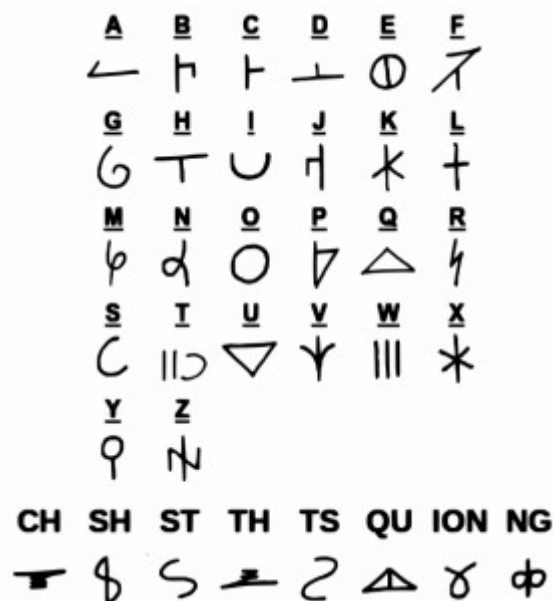
On the left here you see the v1.2 Dscript English alphabet.

These "letters" are very basic pen strokes that can be allowed to rotate 90 or more degrees, but still be unique and distinguishable.

They can be combined in many very intuitive ways, allowing great flexibility.

Occasionally certain combinations may be ambiguous, this is solved by simply mapping these out and choosing a definition. There is a full map of the Dscript English alphabet in the manual, all 676 combinations (26*26=676).

Using these letters, an English word can be turned into a "string" and curled up into a glyph.

On the right you see Shakespeare's Sonnet 18 ("Shall I compare thee to a summer's day...)

As you can see the vertical version creates "tall strings", this is the simple form of Dscript.

Letters are then combined in various ways and the strings curled up, bent etc.. to produce more compressed character like forms. As in the examples below.
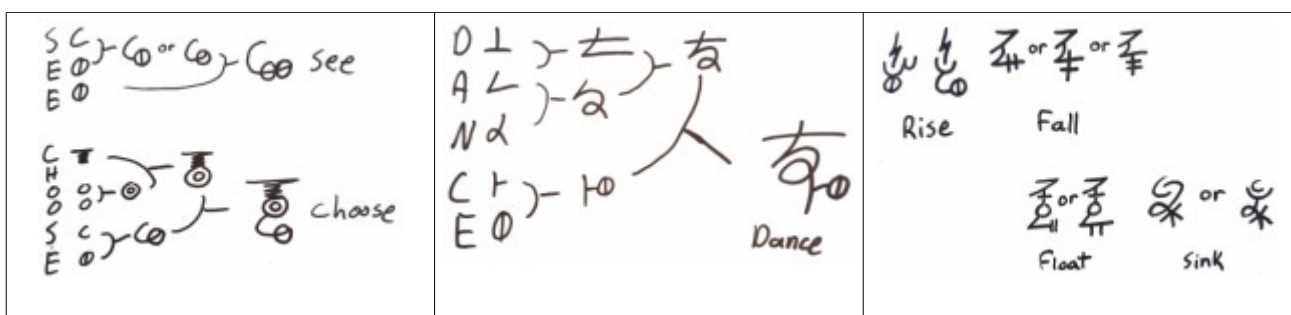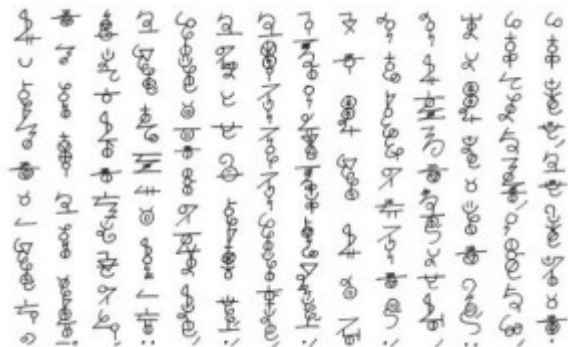
After developing the directional script, I found the both horizontal and vertical forms when used together allowed the original "letter string" to be curled up and fit into tight and odd shaped spaces.

By allowing the letters to connect in multiple ways, even placing letters inside of other letters, and letting the string fork/branch, words, or even phrases, can be "rolled up" into glyphs and sigils, yet still be legible in both letters and sequence.

This is an example attempting to visually describe the Dscript concept using the first bit of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Words in dscript have many forms, these are just some.
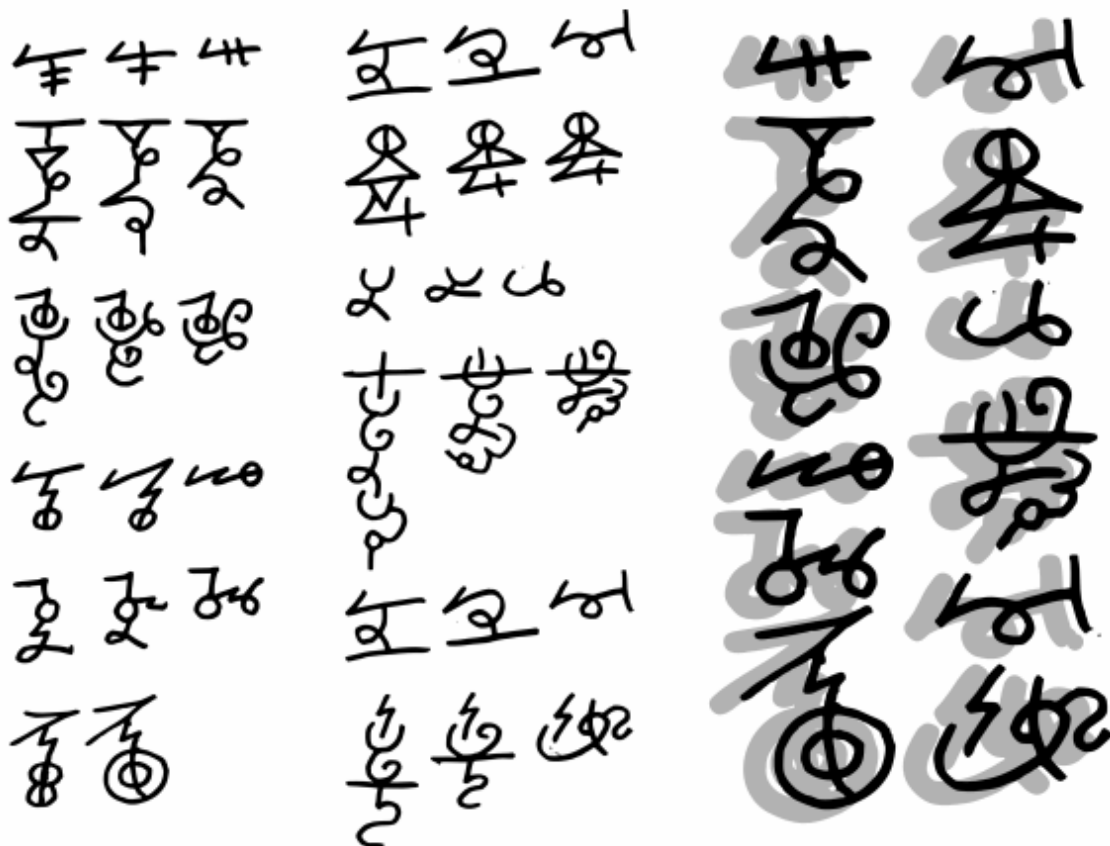
| A L L	H U M A N	B E I N G S	A R E	B O R N	F R E E

A N D	E QU A L	I N	D I G N I T Y	A N D	R I G HTS

Life is what happens to you

While you're making other plans
–John Lennon

Using this one can produce a wide variety of looks and feels from supplied text. It can be used to fill almost any setting requiring "foreign" or "alien" text. And the best part is that one can choose to invent a new language or use an existing one. By using English or another existing language, the players/viewers would have a chance to decipher the text and learn to produce their own symbols for any word. Greatly adding to player/viewer engagement.
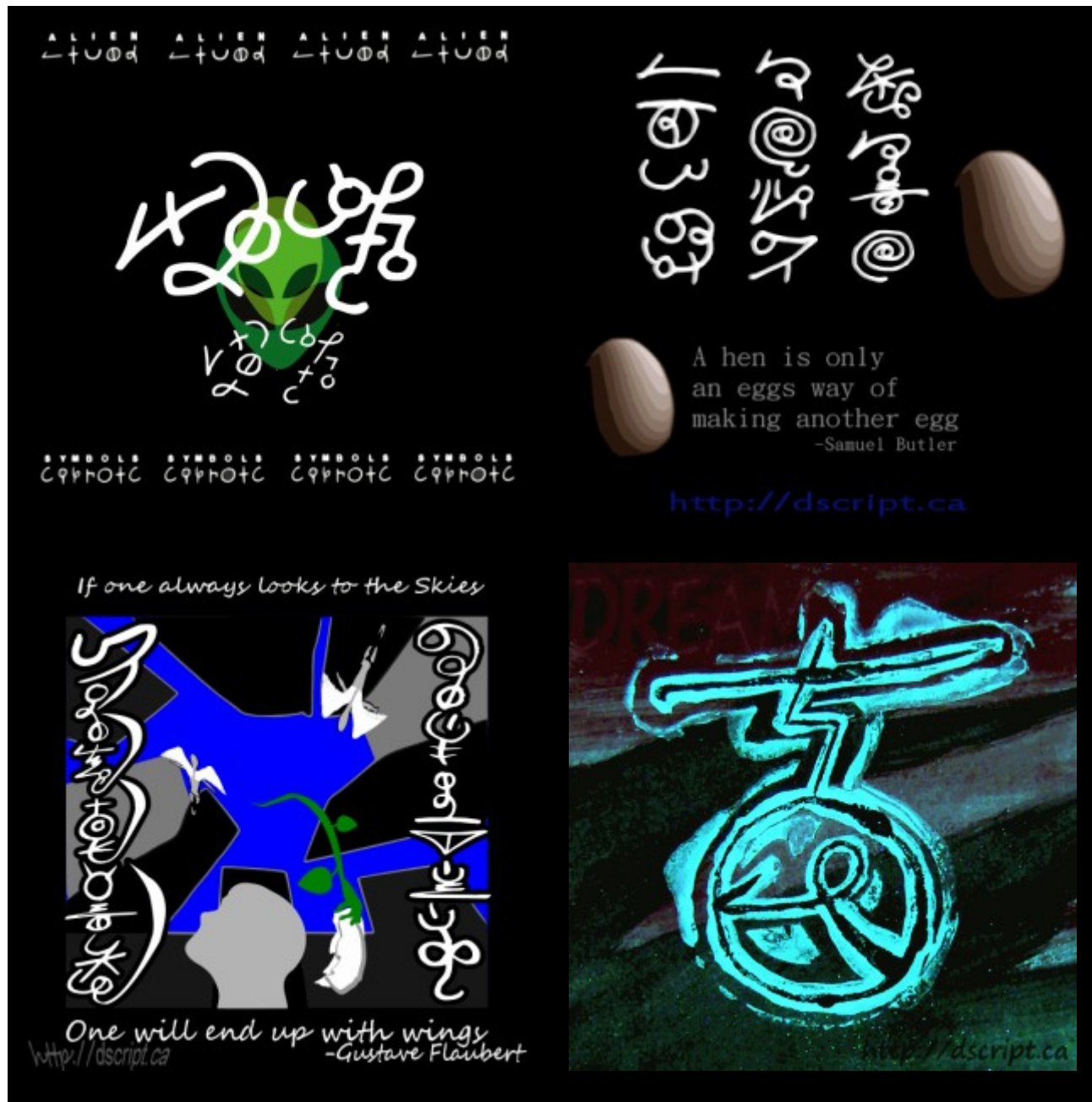
Numbers

There are also number systems for Dscript. There are base 10/16, base 12, base 32, and the most effective and practical, base 100.

Dscript base 100 numbers are basically a way to compress 2 decimal digits into a single glyph. The system is quite simple, there are 18 possible additions to the "core cirlce" 9 for 1's and 9 for 10's.
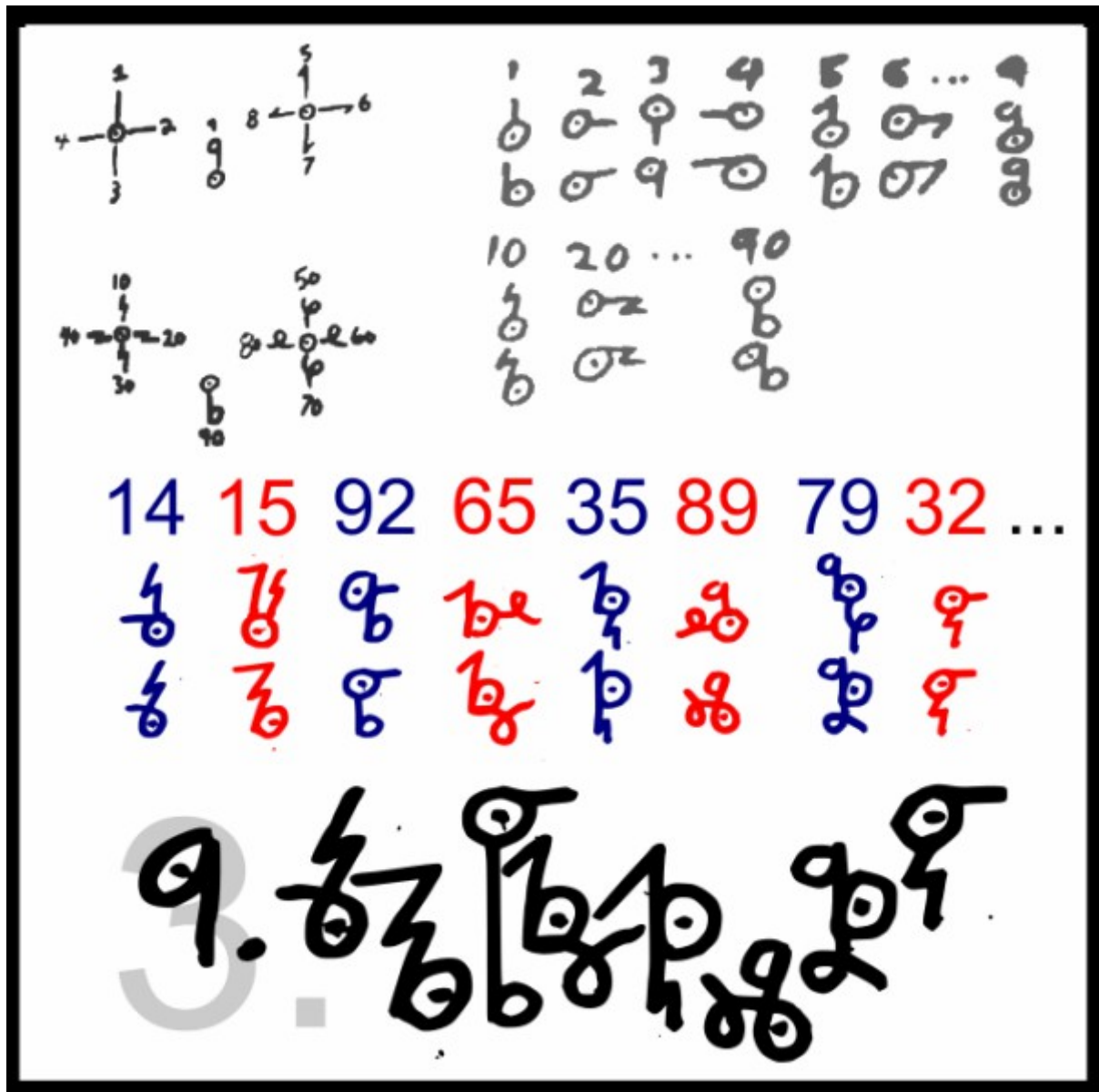
Dscript base 100 numbers are quick and easy, do not require a lot of practice, and allow creative and efficient use of writing space

Loops, curls and bends are reversible, allowing multiple forms and various writing options.

Chemistry

The Dscript principle can be extended beyond alphabetical language. It can also be used as a 2D notation system. By using the letters to represent elements for example, a chemistry notation system can be devised.

The first attempt at such is Dchem, a chemistry notation system geared toward bio-chemistry and bio-molecule notation.

Dchem sacrifices stereo-chemistry, bond strength, and hydrogen's. It uses a base of only 5 letters, CNOPS, which allows each letter a greater degree of flexibility. These 5 elements (Carbon, Nitrogen, Oxygen, Phosphorus, and Sulphur) are the key elements of most bio-chemistry.
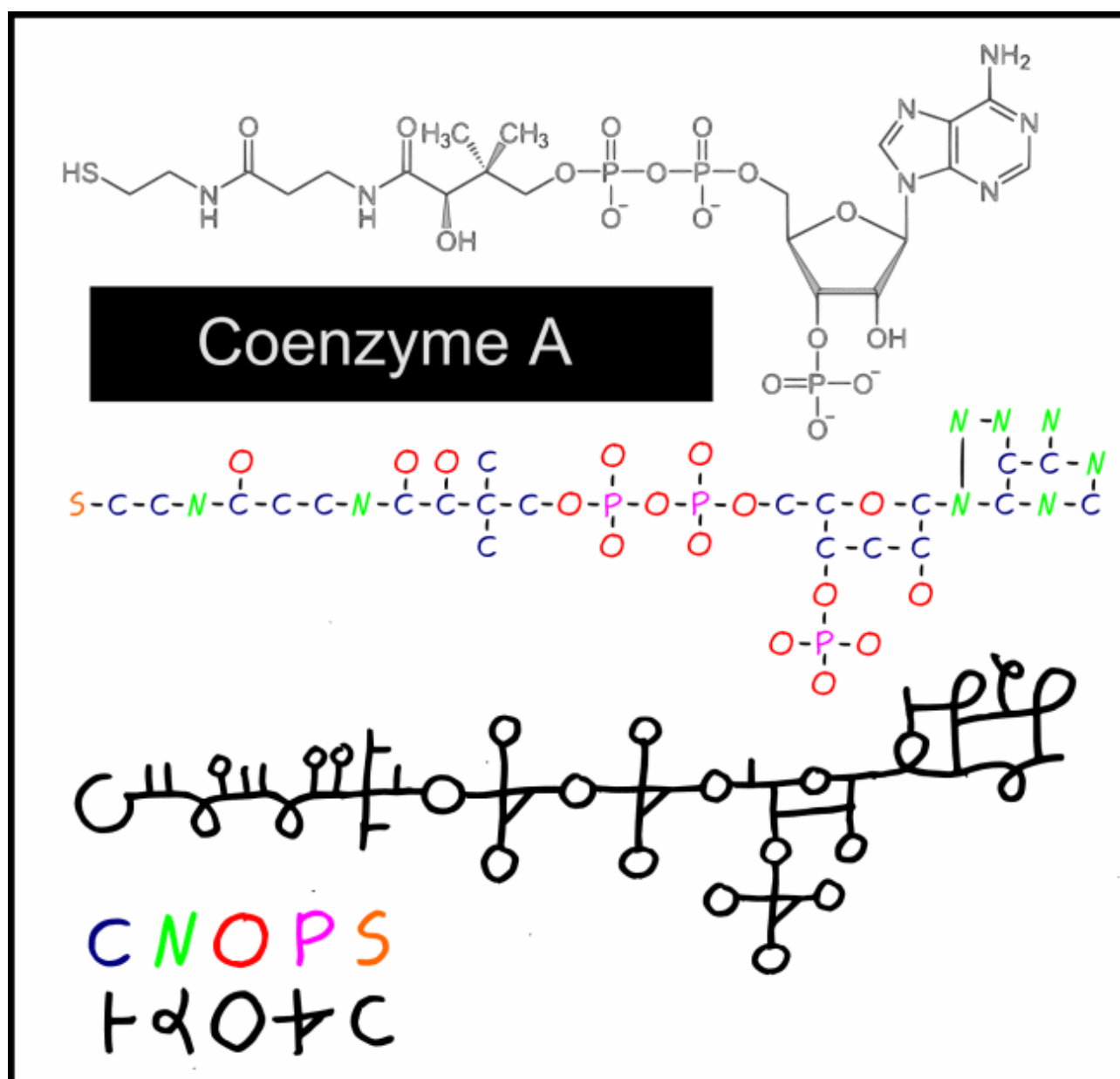
Dchem allows the key structure to be drawn without as much "noise" from other aspects like stereo-chemistry, aiding in memorizing large amounts of chemical structure or large molecules.

Learning

Dscript learning materials alone can be quite stunning. Here are a few example used to teach Dscript and show off its capabilities.
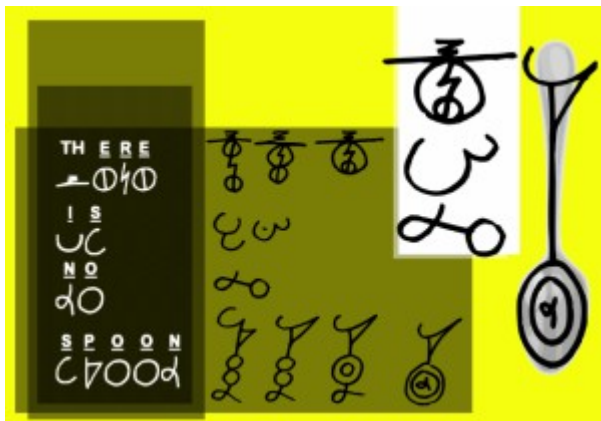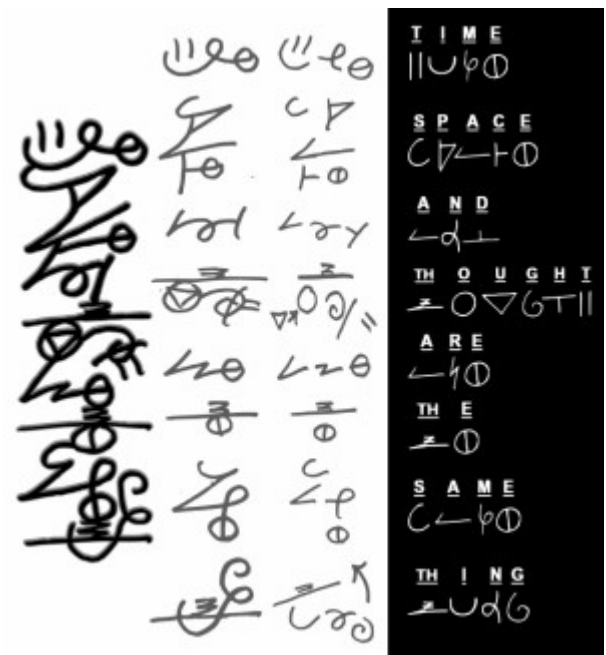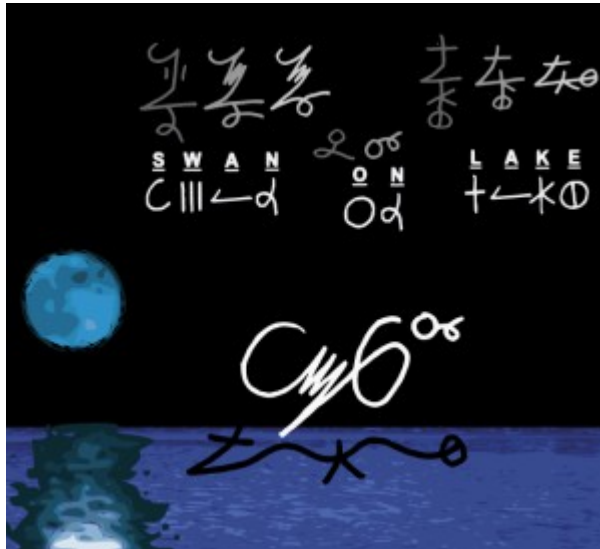
Full Text

The are plenty of examples of Dscript text. On Dscript.org I am working on going through Aesop's Fables. I write them in Dscript, choosing one form per word, and then add some styles and artistic feels to them, with my very limited graphics skills ;)

Standard Latin Alphabet Text:

THE FARMER AND THE STORK

A Stork of a very simple and trusting nature had been asked by a gay party of Cranes to visit a field that had been newly planted. But the party ended dismally with all the birds entangled in the meshes of the Farmer's net.

The Stork begged the Farmer to spare him.

"Please let me go," he pleaded. "I belong to the Stork family who you know are honest and birds of good character. Besides, I did not know the Cranes were going to steal."

"You may be a very good bird," answered the Farmer, "but I caught you with the thieving Cranes and you will have to share the same punishment with them."

You are judged by the company you keep.
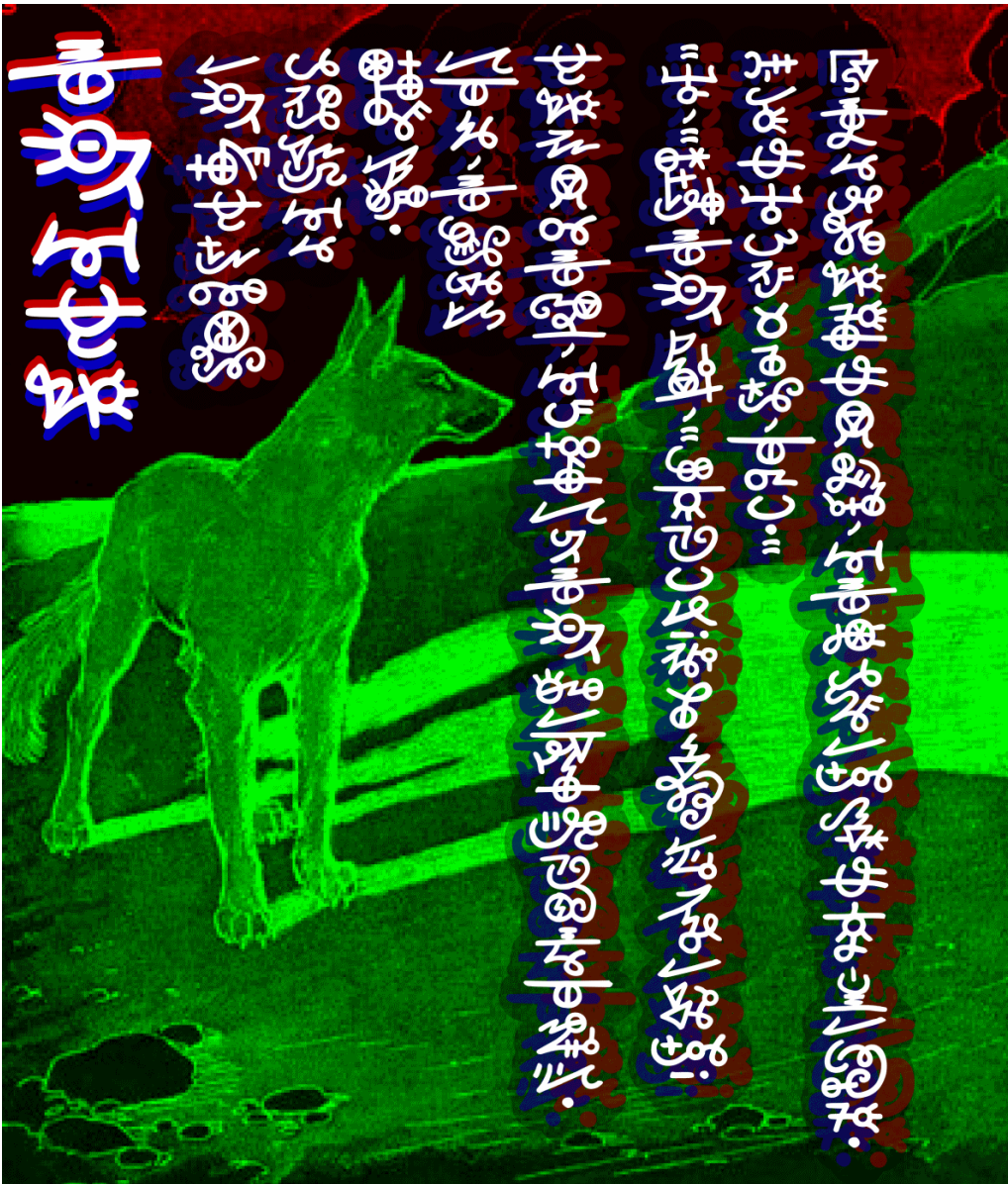
THE WOLF AND HIS SHADOW

A Wolf left his lair one evening in fine spirits and an excellent appetite. As he ran, the setting sun cast his shadow far out on the ground, and it looked as if the wolf were a hundred times bigger than he really was.

"Why," exclaimed the Wolf proudly, "see how big I am! Fancy *me* running away from a puny Lion! I'll show him who is fit to be king, he or I."

Just then an immense shadow blotted him out entirely, and the next instant a Lion struck him down with a single blow.

Do not let your fancy make you forget realities.

THE KID AND THE WOLF

A frisky young Kid had been left by the herdsman on the thatched roof of a sheep shelter to keep him out of harm's way. The Kid was browsing near the edge of the roof, when he spied a Wolf and began to jeer at him, making faces and abusing him to his heart's content.

"I hear you," said the Wolf, "and I haven't the least grudge against you for what you say or do. When you are up there it is the roof that's talking, not you."

Do not say anything at any time that you would not say at all times.

Reflected Text

Dscript text tends to produce some very nice results when reflected in various ways. The large size and high complexity of each glyph means when reflected and mergeed can produce some amazingly complex results. Recently I have enjoyed making kaleidoscope like effects.
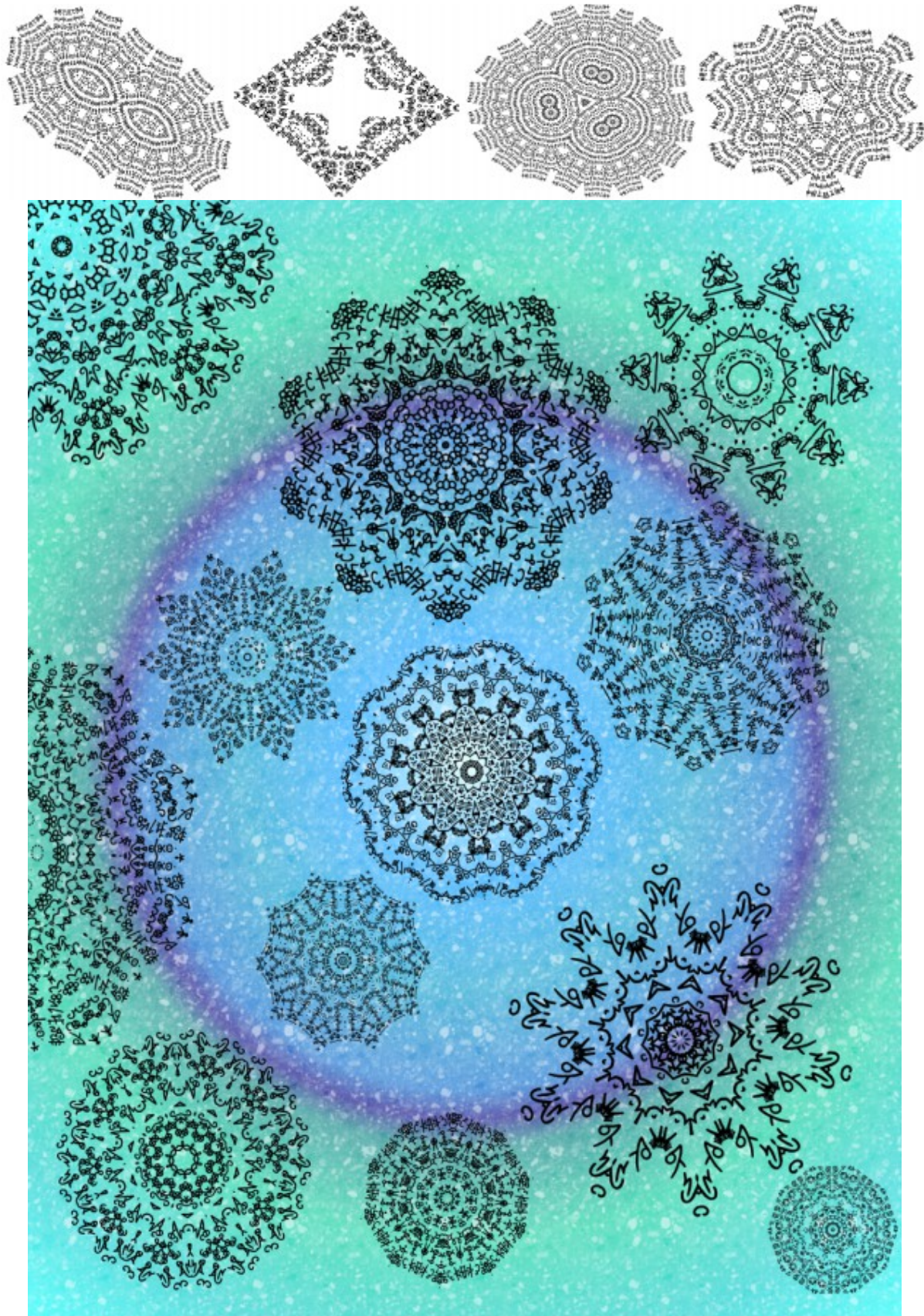
Application

For those interested in mapping Dscript to new alphabets, languages, and applications, there is the Dscript for other languages guide. This outlines the principles of Dscript and how to design letters capable of dimensional writing.

Dscript can accommodate almost any alphabet, but the system does works best for smaller alphabets. The efficiency of Dscript breaks down at alphabets of over 40 or so letters.

First there are the "bends" or "simple corners"

with word line

Curves simple and easy, can be split by side

"zig zags" are a class to themself because they can be repeated

although you must settle on a way of making sure a double zig-zag is not ambiguos with 2 zigzags best to bundle them up tight like shown here

Triangles are the second easiest "enclosed space" letter they can be drawn pointing "into the word line"

...hanging of the side of the word line(either side)

or pointing "up into" the word line" when not hanging off the word line these can also be "divided" with a final up/downward stroke added

The "o" is great because you can write inside of it

after drawing a circle, you can zip back and "divide it" with a line this is easy to write and makes a great separate letter

almost anything further would require lifting the pen so best to consider anything further a next letter except for compund letters (see below)

More open space shapes can be added but best not to go too far

Curls are great, you can differentiated between sides or not

You can also try "pulling" through the curl without lifting the pen, but you need to make sure you "come around" enough, or it will look like a loop

A dash crossing a line can be put almost anywhere and also provides lots of connection points

multiple dashes can be piled up for even more conection points

best not to take it too far, but at the same time, a letter like this

If it started a word could probably just have the following letters attached, each to an end, and read like a clock

The simple dash through the line can be extended by adding joins to the dash but this then restricts the dashes options for combination

Loops are great, easy, and can be split by either side of line or " rotation" (clockwise/counter clockwise, my preferred method)

Loops can be done with joins but these again easily become ambiguos

Joints or curves that "return to the word line" are possible, but the easily become ambiguos with loops

double dashes make great cornectors like "pipes" when they only connect to one letter they can also be angled

Triple dashes work like double dashes

Dashes work great, and you can either allow them to hang off either side, or make either side a separate letter

They can be doubled-up, tripled up, etc...

but to allow for this as well as singles without ambiguity, best to allow the single to hang off either side and make the rule "two singles must alternate"

Hooks are easy and provide an easy "fork" in the string

pecial starts can be designed for the hooks when the start a letter

The "cup" letter catches previous letters inside it, you can also use the two "rims" of the cup as connection points

More letters can be added by simply adding joints to the cup, but these will restrict the cups flexibility in connection

Long bars are good, and with a dash on top or bottom it can become 2 letters the best part about this system is that you can "default" to the most common letter. Also, when the word starts with a "bottom dash" or ends with a "top dash", the dash can be omited

"sin waves" can be added, of varying repetions, starting on either side

and extra stuff can be added but not without inventing con to avoid ambiguity

A separate line can make a pass back and cross twice this can make enclosed spaces on only one side of the word line It could be as easy as drawing a curve

or joints and loops can be added

not actualy "crossing the word line" and hang on one side is possible but this will remove many combinations from other letters and when the word line curves and bends it may be hard to distinguish it from shapes that are in the middle of the word line

An extra dash on only one side can make odd numbered interesctions

Solid shapes, and even dots, can be added to the word line but dots can easily be made by accidents in pen/brush strokes what is just a thick line and what is a dot can be hard to determine but if used, perhaps best as punctuation, accents, or other markings solid shaps of larger size are more feasible but are a pain to write(filling in the space takes alot of time(realtively) and the solid shape concept could even only partially filled

finally there are "compund lette where multiple letters are comb what would normally be a multi combo represents instead a di

or by drawing shapes so close t

Resources

There are plenty of learning materials and examples of Dscript online

There are 2 main official websites for those interested in Dscript

Dscript.org
This site contains recent updates, examples, and materials, it is always the most current information. Dscript materials are all under the "Dscript" menu option on the site's main menu.
Key dscript.org resources
- *Full Sized Full text art*
- *Full Size transparant Reflected text art*
- *Word Art Examples*

Dscript.org is loaded with graphics content.. all is free to copy edit and sell, no royalty, fee, etc. so please feel free to do with as you please :)

Dscript.ca
This site documents the origins and development of Dscript.
Key dscript.ca resources
- *Dscript v1.0 Manual*
- *Dscript Video Lessons*
- *Dscript Tools*
- *Dscript Generator*
- *Dscript for other languages*

Some content is also collected on DeviantArt and Facebook. DeviantArt in particular allows storage and public access to some many high quality files so it is worth a look. (I store plenty of the reflected text art on DA)
http://www.facebook.com/dscripting
http://dscript.deviantart.com/