





TENGWA ABC



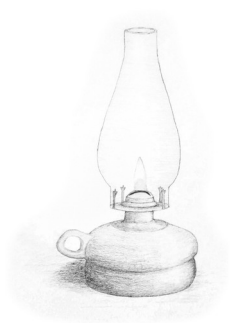
# Tengwa ABC

in pictures  
and poems

## Chaered



ገጽ ገጽ ገጽ ገጽ



ገጽ ገጽ ገጽ ገጽ ገጽ ገጽ



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## Preface

The tengwar alphabet was created by Fëanor, as told to us by J.R.R. Tolkien.

The poems and pictures in the Tengwa ABC are original work by Chæred (and others where noted), first posted on the *Vinyë Lambengolmor* forum on Discord. It is published as “creative commons with attribution and share-alike” (CC-BY-SA), meaning you are free to use and reproduce it but must include a reference to the original source.

The original text of the poems is also part of the sample text set in <https://ungwe.net/>, and we will keep an errata list for this book available there too.

The aim of this volume is to provide some entertainment and study material for those wishing to study Quenya. So enjoy, dear reader!

—*Tengwa ABC*—

## Introduction

Each tengwa, or letter of the Quenya alphabet, has a *sound*, a written *shape*, and a *name*. The shape is what we write for the sound. The name, which is usually a common word that starts with the sound, is also used to spell the letter.

In this book, for each tengwa, you will find:

- The name of the letter.
- A picture, showing the thing used to name the letter.
- In the picture, the shape of the letter.
- A poem in English, describing the picture.
- The original poem in Quenya, which will include the name (in bold) and the letter in its text, and which describes the picture.
- The romanized original (Quenya text transliterated into the Latin alphabet).
- A more literal word-by-word translation of the Quenya poem.

The English poem may differ quite a bit from the Quenya one, to get a good rhyme and meter. The literal translation below it will help you to understand the Quenya text.

## Unusual Letters

We transcribe the tengwa *súle* as “þ”, not “s”, to preserve the distinction with *silmë*, but you may read it as “s”. Likewise we transcribe *noldo* as “ñ”, not “n”, to distinguish it from *númen*, for the benefit of any of our readers born prior to the Third Age; this was an “eng” sound, not to be confused with the Spanish n-tilde (“-ny-”).

## Other Stuff

This book does not describe how to use *tehtar* (vowel marks), punctuation, decimal and duo-decimal numbers, and other aspects of writing tengwar; those are covered in great detail in other books and online resources. Instead, you can relax here and behold just the tengwar, and some fine poetry for your inner scribe.

—*Tengwa ABC*—

**ṙ** ▶T

ṙṙṙl ▶*tinco*  
(metal)

**ṙ** ▶P

ṙṙṙṙ  
▶*parma*  
(book)

**ṙ** ▶C

ṙṙṙṙṙ  
▶*calma*  
(lamp)

**ṙ** ▶QU

ṙṙṙ ▶*quessë*  
(feather)

**ṙ** ▶ND

ṙṙṙ ▶*ando*  
(gate)

**ṙ** ▶MB

ṙṙṙṙ  
▶*umbar*  
(fate)

**ṙ** ▶NG

ṙṙṙṙ ▶*anga*  
(iron)

**ṙ** ▶NGW

ṙṙṙ ▶*ungwë*  
(spiderweb)

**ṙ** ▶S/TH

ṙṙṙ ▶*pülë*  
(spirit)

**ṙ** ▶F

ṙṙṙṙṙṙ  
▶*formen*  
(north)

**ṙ** ▶H

ṙṙṙṙṙ  
▶*barma*  
(treasure)

**ṙ** ▶HW

ṙṙṙṙ  
▶*hwesta*  
(breeze)

**ṙ** ▶NT

ṙṙṙ ▶*anto*  
(mouth)

**ṙ** ▶MP

ṙṙṙ ▶*ampa*  
(hook)

**ṙ** ▶NC

ṙṙṙl ▶*anca*  
(jaws)

**ṙ** ▶NQU

ṙṙṙl ▶*unquë*  
(a hollow)

**ṙ** ▶N

ṙṙṙṙṙṙ  
▶*númen*  
(west)

**ṙ** ▶M

ṙṙṙṙṙ  
▶*malta*  
(gold)

**ṙ** ▶N/Ñ

ṙṙṙṙ ▶*noldo*  
(a Noldo)

**ṙ** ▶ÑW

ṙṙṙṙṙ  
▶*nwalmë*  
(torment)

**ṙ** ▶-R

ṙṙṙ ▶*órë*  
(heart)

**ṙ** ▶V

ṙṙṙ ▶*vala*  
(angelic  
power)

**ṙ**

ṙṙṙṙ ▶*anna*  
(gift)

**ṙ** ▶V/W

ṙṙṙ ▶*vilya*  
(air)

Ÿ ▶R-

Ÿróm  
▶rómen  
(east)

Ÿ ▶RD

ĩŸ ▶arda  
(region)

Ṭ ▶L

Ṭmb ▶lambë  
(tongue)

Ṣ ▶LD

ĩṢ ▶alda  
(tree)

Ḡ ▶S

Ḡṭmb ▶silmë  
(starlight)

ḡ

ḡṭmb  
námḡmb  
▶silmë  
nuquerna

Ḣ ▶SS

íḢ ▶essë  
(name)

ḣ

íḣ námḣmb  
▶essë  
nuquerna

λ ▶HY

λnámmb  
▶byarmen  
(south)

λ ▶-I

ḡhmb ▶yanta  
(bridge)

o ▶-U

ĩó ▶úrë  
(heat)

l

lḡ ▶balla  
(tall)

l

lṣḡ ▶telco  
(stem)

l

ĩl ▶ára  
(dawn)

—*Tengwa ABC*—

## The Tengwar



Fëanor's craft,  
on paper draft  
with lines and curves,  
our words preserves

—Tengwa ABC—

ǫ́nǎ hīnǫ́jý  
ł̣ı̇ṃı̇ṃ ṃjý  
ṛ̌č̣ · ṛ̌ṛ̌ · ṛ̌č̣ṛ̌  
ǫ́ṛ̌ı̇ ṛ̌ṃ ýč̣ṛ̌

*curwë Feänáro*  
*byalinenna móro*  
*telqui, lúvar, tehtar*  
*quetië san rehtar*

The craft of Fëanor  
ink onto paper  
stems, bows, marks  
thus they save/preserve words

## Tinco

(metal)



A sturdy metal will endure:  
On hooves, it keeps the footing sure;  
For cooks, sharp blades trump all the rest.  
When smiths forge tools, they are the best

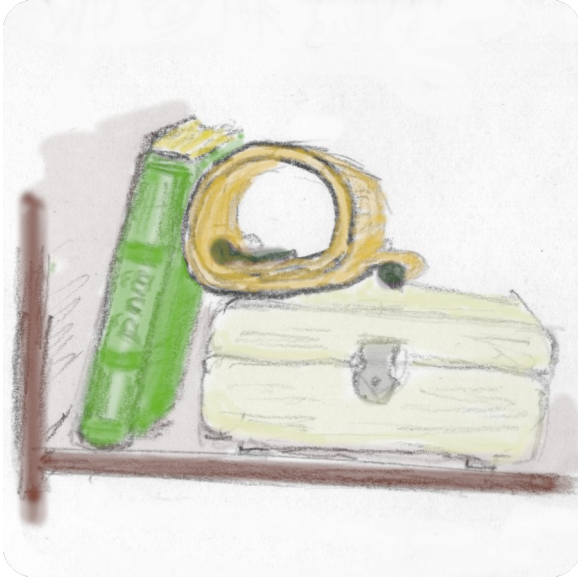
i·ihǎnčy ꞑčł ěnꞑ  
ꞑꞑčz 6šꞑ ěnꞑ  
mčyn·mčz mščy mčꞑ  
ꞑm mčy · ič ččꞑ

*i-anturca TINCO vorta  
pattalessë saipo norta  
maxar-massë maica mahta  
tamo maca, ilya lahta*

The very hard metal preserves;  
on the hoof, a boot rides;  
in the hand of a cook, a blade wields;  
a smith forges, each excels.

# Parma

(book)



Book and scroll sit on the shelf.

To us they are joy itself.

Oh such tales and lore in prose!

What to pick for my repose?

íĉ ħmĉ in řýĉm  
řĉřřř · ĩĉřĉm  
íý ĺhñ ññmđ · cıĵĉ  
mñ ñřđm řĵ mĵĉß

*ela PARMA ar teccelma  
palustassë, alasselma  
ecë benta nyarvë, ñólë;  
mana napuvan pó mólë?*

Behold, a book and/beside a scroll  
on the shelf, our happiness  
(one) could read fiction, study;  
What will I pick after work?

# Calma

(lamp)



The lamp so bright,  
a bloom that burns;  
lifts gloom with light  
till dawn returns.

i ǫ̇ḥḥ ǫ̇ḥḥ  
bǫ̇ ḥḥḥ ǫ̇ ḥḥḥ  
i ḥḥḥḥ ḥḥḥḥ  
ǫ̇ḥḥ · ḥḥḥḥ ḥḥḥḥ

*i calima CALMA  
fá vanya vë alma  
i lómessë laurë  
tenn' entulë aurë*

The bright lamp,  
a flame beautiful like a flower;  
in the gloom is golden  
until the day returns.

## Quessë

(feather)



The birds have a feather,  
where others a hair;  
they fly up together  
to greet the sky fair.

ĩ ãtã i ǫǫ  
m̃ñm̃ h̃p̃ǫǫ  
ĩm̃m̃ç̃h̃  
m̃ñç̃ ǫs̃ç̃h̃

*i aiwin i QUESSË  
minomë findessë  
amaviluvantë  
menel suilantë*

The birds have the feather  
instead of head-of-hair;  
they will fly up,  
the sky greets.

## Ando

(gate)



This sturdy gate set in a hedge  
drives 'tween the in and out a wedge:  
it bids a friend a welcome stay  
and tells a foe to go away.

ἰῃ ἄδῖ ἰῖ  
ῖῖ ῖῖ ῖῖ  
ῖῖ ῖῖ ῖῖ  
ῖῖ ῖῖ ῖῖ

*ara bahta ANDO  
tana tanwa lando  
tar napissë málo  
leltas cotto talo*

Beside a hedge, a gate  
draws a sign of a boundary:  
thither it welcomes a friend,  
it sends an enemy thence.

# Umbar

(fate)



Our story has ended,  
our future in gloom;  
to turn into fairies,  
oh sneer of the doom!

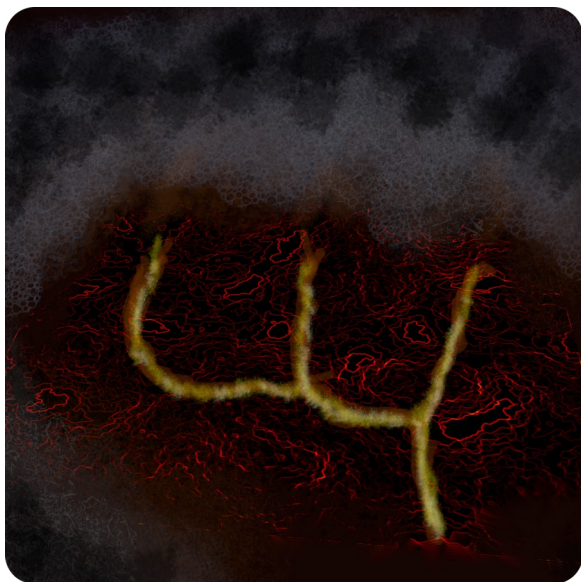
ṬṬṬṬ ṭṭṭṭ  
ṣṣṣṣ ṣṣṣ  
ṛṛ ṛṛṛṛ ṛṛṛṛ  
ṛṛṛ ḅḅḅ ṛṛṛ

*lúmelva avánië  
tuluryalva lumba  
na naucor rámaiiti  
venya faica UMBAR*

Our time has gone,  
our future is gloomy;  
to be winged dwarves:  
our contemptible doom.

# Anga

(iron)



The dwarves find red rock and then toil  
to make it red-hot as to boil  
and drain it of its iron-blood,  
then leave the rest as soulless mud.

čřń i ýřč ířńđ řřř čřř  
řřńń řčřř řřń đřř ířř  
íčč đ řńč ířńč řřřč  
čř đ řřč řřč řčřč

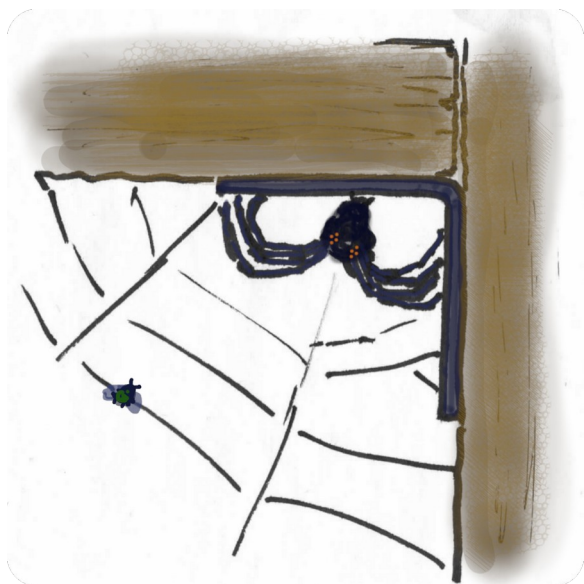
*Casar i rusca ondossë tás cesta  
úranen laucata tér velis esta  
ANGA ve sercë ondollo suryaila  
loxo ve loico luppullo hebtaila*

A dwarf the red (stuff) in the rock here  
seeks,  
with fire heats (it) so it boils out:  
iron, like blood from the stone, flowing;  
mud, like the corpse (out) of the  
lump/heap, remaining.

—Tengwa ABC—

# Ungwë

(spiderweb)



The spider sure a home can weave,  
so cozy you would never leave.

To flying guests it's so polite,  
says: Come in, and we'll have a bite.

ᐱᐱ ᐱᐱ ᐱᐱᐱᐱ ᐱᐱ  
ᐱᐱ ᐱᐱᐱᐱ ᐱᐱᐱ ᐱᐱ  
ᐱᐱ : ᐱᐱᐱ ᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱ  
ᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱ ᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱ

*UNGWĒ ná ungolwa coa  
lá mardarya nemë böa  
equë: alla! napalinnar  
etsatië itselinnar*

A web is a spider's home;  
its dwelling does not seem big,  
(but) it says: Welcome! to guests  
especially some flies.

—Tengwa ABC—

**Ḑúlë**

(spirit)



Into wintry air I stride  
through the door, from the inside;  
just so, breath escapes the lips  
that were keeping it in grips.

lyjǎi̇ ṁč̇ṧ  
č̇č̇ř̇ṁ k̇ř̇ṧṧ  
ř̇ṁ ḣj̇č̇. ṁṁṁṁ  
i̇k̇ č̇č̇ č̇ṁ

*brívěa vilyassë  
lenwetan fendassë  
tiër **PÚL'** nurnonna  
upě laqui yonna*

in winter's air  
I exit a door;  
likewise breath into the dark [air]  
escapes, if not enclosed.

—*Tengwa ABC*—

## Formen

(north)



North in the sky we sense these lines  
Where now the Silver Sickle shines.  
Aulë and Varda made their stands  
and placed it up to ward our lands.

ḥnḥn ḥnḥḥ  
ḥḥḥḥ ḥḥ  
ḥḥ ḥḥ ḥḥ ḥḥ  
ḥḥḥḥ ḥḥ ḥḥ

*FORMEN menelessë  
Valacirca essë  
yo Aulë yo Varda  
maitanet or arda*

North (part) of the firmament:  
Valacirca (is [the]) name,  
both Aulë and Varda  
made it above the Earth.

—Tengwa ABC—

# Harma

(treasure)



This grab-bag of loot,  
it shines in the sun.  
The dragon's afoot,  
stop counting, and run!

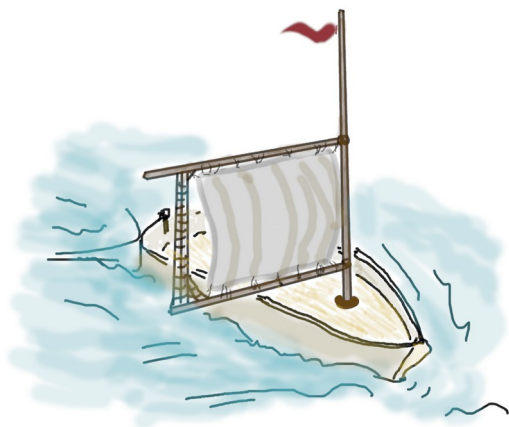
λöÿĚ ǝ Ĭnġ  
iĤqĬĤ nǝ ĩnġ  
ĵ nǝŷ · nĵ řý  
řĵ řnǝ i Ĥřý

*baurallo si HARMA  
alcaila nu arma  
á norë, vá tocë  
tás tensi i lócë!*

This treasure from a hoard  
glittering in a ray of sunlight  
Run, don't appraise  
The dragon is already there!

# Hwesta

(breeze)



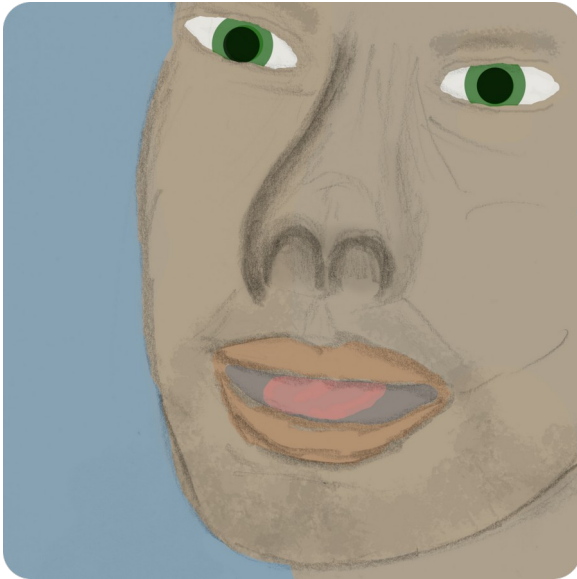
The breeze once more  
blows from the shore,  
makes this ship go  
where rivers flow.

i naŋȳm̄ ᄁᄁᄁ  
ína·naŋc̄ī n̄ l̄ȳᄁᄁ  
īn̄ naŋȳ ī c̄ȳ  
c̄īᄁ ᄁj̄ȳ á ᄁȳ

*i nórima HWESTA  
en-váya va bresta  
ar nirë i ciryá  
yas sírë oi sirya*

The strong breeze  
again-blows from shore  
and thrusts the ship  
where a river ever flows.

**Anto**  
(mouth)



Above the tongue-cave, as to guard  
our mouth, the nose checks for what's  
barred;  
permitting passage only if  
you pass its scrutinizing sniff.

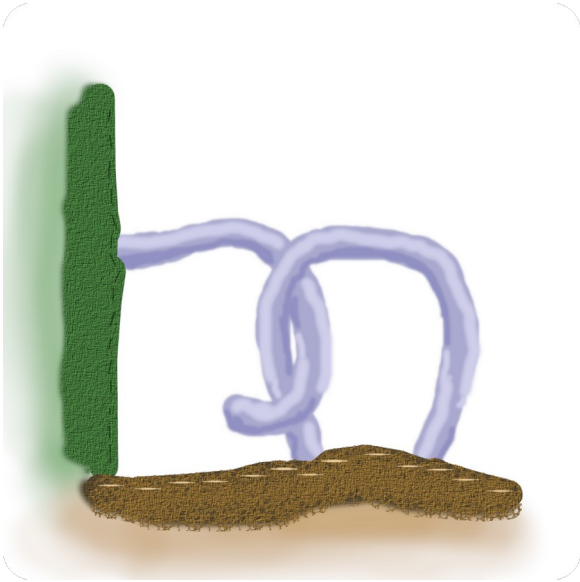
၆၂၀ မံ၂၀မံ၂၀မံ၂၀  
ကံ၂၀ ၆၂၀ ၆၂၀  
ကံ၂၀ကံ၂၀ကံ၂၀ ၆၂၀  
မံ၂၀၂၀ ၆၂၀ ၆၂၀

*lambo martaman to  
nengwe alya ANTO  
nustenen pantaila  
mittarë cé saila*

Above the residence of (the) tongue,  
a nose helps the mouth  
deciding with sense-of-smell  
(the) entering, if wise.

# Ampa

(hook)



A hook here holds  
firm in its grasp  
a loop or folds.  
It's called a clasp.

īḥ ṛ qjý  
ṁṁ ṛ ṛṛý  
i ṁḥ Ḳṁṁṁ  
ṁṁṁṁ i ṛṛ

*AMPA ve quárë  
napa ascarë  
i quint harpessë  
tancal i essë*

A hook, like a fist  
easily holds  
the loop on the garment;  
clasp is the name.

—Tengwa ABC—

**Anca**

(jaws)



The lion jaws wide,  
huge fangs that can crunch!  
But no need to hide:  
it's naptime, not lunch.

i iĉĉl í γōŷ  
ĉnĉŷ ĩn λōŷ  
m̄τ j̄ñ j̄́ ŷ́  
m̄n λj̄ĉ · τj̄ j̄́

*i ANCA o rauro  
carcara ar baura  
mal áva tye rucē  
vin háca, lá tyucē*

The jaw from a lion,  
toothed and huge;  
but don't you fear  
he's yawning, not chewing.

—Tengwa ABC—

## Unquë

(hollow)



This helmet-hole lays bare  
the brigand's head of hair.  
Perhaps its latest trim  
was by an axe's rim?

i iǎ čǵǵǵ  
iǵhǵ hǵǵ· iǵǵǵ  
čǵǵ ǵǵǵ ǵǵǵ i čǵǵǵ  
ǵǵǵ ǵǵǵǵ i čǵǵǵ

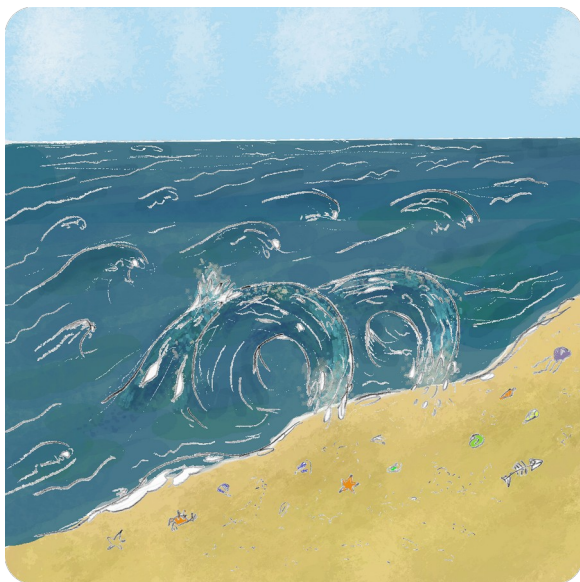
*i UNQUË castolossë  
apanta find' arpossë  
yas hyaldava i címa  
tar mittanë i síma*

The cavity in the helmet  
reveals the hair on the thief;  
where of an axe, the blade-edge  
entered thither into the mind.

—*Tengwa ABC*—

## Númen

(west)



From the western sea,  
waves forever more  
roll in, come to see  
and greet the sandy shore.

ᵐᵛᵐᵛᵐᵛ·ᵐᵛᵛᵐᵛ  
ᵐᵛᵐᵛᵐᵛ ᵐᵛᵐᵛ·ᵐᵛᵛ  
ᵐᵛ ᵐᵛᵐᵛᵐᵛ ᵐᵛᵐᵛᵐᵛ  
ᵐᵛᵐᵛ · ᵐᵛᵐᵛᵐᵛ ᵐᵛᵐᵛᵐᵛ

*NÚMEN-eäreno  
falmali en-oio  
i litsenna sesta  
inte, suilar bresta*

Of the west-sea  
some waves ever and again  
onto the sand put  
themselves, greet the shore.

—Tengwa ABC—

## **Malta**

(gold)



The heavy gold,  
it can feel cold.  
Shines like the sun;  
brings wicked fun.

ĩṁṁṁṁ ṁṁṁṁ  
ṁṁṁ ṁṁṁ ṁṁṁṁ  
ṁṁṁṁ ṁ ṁṁṁṁ  
ṁṁṁ ṁṁṁṁ ṁṁṁṁṁ

*amalunga MALTA*  
*nacë ringa palta*  
*laureä ve anar*  
*blussa búnë mánar*

Very heavy gold  
seemingly cold touch-feels;  
golden like sun,  
whispers cursed blessings.

—Tengwa ABC—

# Ñoldo

(Noldo)



You won't be the wisest  
without firm look,  
without the teacher,  
without the book.

i c̄aĩ m̄ãr̄  
i̇t̄ ð̄hãr̄  
p̄j̄ ð̄n̄m̄ ð̄ȳ  
i̇n̄ n̄ōt̄p̄ȳn̄ō l̄t̄ȳ

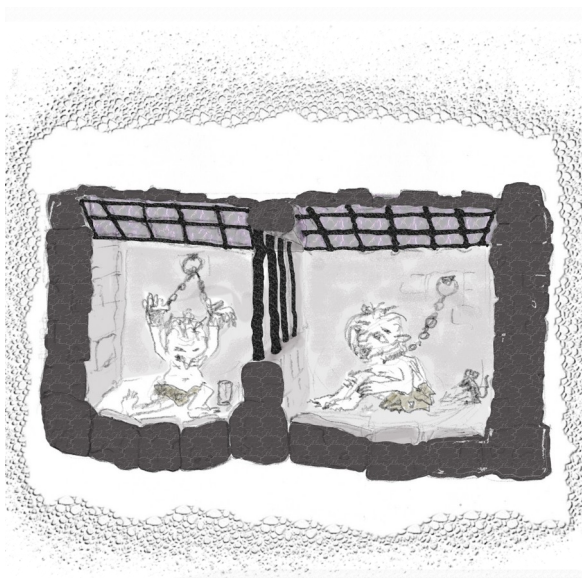
*i ÑOLDO maitë  
olë tuntaitë  
pó parma harë  
ar noltaren blarë*

The true Ñoldo  
becomes smart:  
sits in front of a book  
and listens to the teacher.

—Tengwa ABC—

## Ñwalmë

(torment)



By Melcor's whim  
an orc you'll be...  
His deeds are grim,  
beware and flee!

ĵ m̄ȳp ȳ ǎǎǎǎ  
ǎ m̄ǎȳn ĵ n̄ȳ  
ȳ ĵ ȳm̄ǎǎǎ  
ín ĵǎǎp ínȳ

*ú merit qui ÑWALMĚ  
va Melcor á norë  
qui tye remuvaina  
en oluvat orco*

If you don't want the torment,  
run away from Melcor.  
If you'll be captured  
soon you'll become an orc.

—Tengwa ABC—

# Órë

(heart)



When torn apart  
by doubt or fear,  
heed what your heart  
bids you to hear.

qí ĩp̣p̣óó  
x̣ ṭạṭp̣ ḳó  
j̣ j̣ỵ·j̣ṃ ṭó  
ĩṇp̣ọ̈óóó q̣ó

*quië attindossë  
hya ñwalitye possë  
á ÓRĚ-tyan lasta  
ortauvasses casta*

Whenever in doubt  
or you suffer from fear,  
listen to your heart  
it will lift [that] up.

—Tengwa ABC—

## Vala

(angelic power)



The valar sing the world to be  
Oh let us praise their deeds we see  
As Ulmo, Lóriën, Manwë fine  
in concert with the maiar shine



# Anna

(gift)



Beloved Yavanna,  
your name contains ANNA;  
how strange is this letter  
without its garland.

i ṣṣ ṽṽ  
nā nā ṽṽ  
mṣ mṣnā ṽ ṽ  
ṣṣ ṽṽṽṽ

*i tengwa ANNA  
nemë napanna  
mal manen ú so  
tecë Yavanna?*

The letter ANNA (gift)  
seems an additional [letter]  
but how without it  
to write “Yavanna” (fruit-giver)?

# Vilya

(air)



The bees fill honey-scented air  
and follow trails to flowers where  
the sweetness lures them, on this trek  
from hive through skies out here and  
back.

ᓃᓃᓃᓃ ᓃᓃᓃᓃ ᓃᓃ  
ᓃᓃᓃ ᓃᓃᓃᓃᓃ ᓃᓃ  
ᓃᓃ ᓃ ᓃᓃᓃᓃ ᓃᓃ  
ᓃᓃ ᓃᓃ ᓃᓃᓃ ᓃᓃ

*nieréli quantar VILYA  
losseli telyantar ilya  
vilya i lissenna tië  
etta vilya nípa sië*

Some bees fill (the) air  
inflorescences lure each one.  
Air is the road to honey  
therefore (the) air smells so sweet.

—*Tengwa ABC*—

## Rómen

(east)



From Cuiviénen came the elves,  
who Quendi count among themselves,  
to travel past the eastern sea,  
walk west, where Valinor might be.



# Arda

(region)



From west to the east,  
from north to the south;  
Manwë rules Arda -  
that is our house.

naꞑm̄ē yꞑm̄ē .  
k̄n̄m̄ē x̄n̄m̄ē :  
íē . éē ēē  
ēē ēē ēē

*númello rómenna,  
formello byarmenna:  
ela! - venya marda  
na Manweva ARDA*

From west to east  
from north to south:  
behold! - our home  
is Manwë's Arda.

—Tengwa ABC—

## Lambë

(tongue)



The frog it has spoken,  
lured flies with its croaking;  
the last thing they'll see  
its mouth closing will be.

i qj'ýí ǂǂ  
ǂǂǂ ǂǂ ǂǂǂ  
ýǂǂ ǂǂǂǂ  
ǂǂǂ· ǂǂǂ ǂǂǂ·ǂǂǂ

*i quáceo LAMBĚ*  
*telyanta sí tambĚ*  
*cepula ǂǂǂsonna*  
*tenn' anto en-yonna*

The frog's speech/tongue  
lures now so  
a curious fly  
until (the) mouth (is) closed-again

—Tengwa ABC—

**Alda**

(tree)



This tree in the wood,  
so long it has stood  
in brown and in green  
draws the letter here seen.

᠑ ᠶᠢ ᠫᠤ ᠫᠤ ᠶᠢ  
ᠨᠠ ᠫᠤ ᠫᠤ ᠶᠢ  
ᠶᠢ ᠫᠤ ᠫᠤ ᠶᠢ  
ᠶᠢ ᠫᠤ ᠫᠤ ᠶᠢ

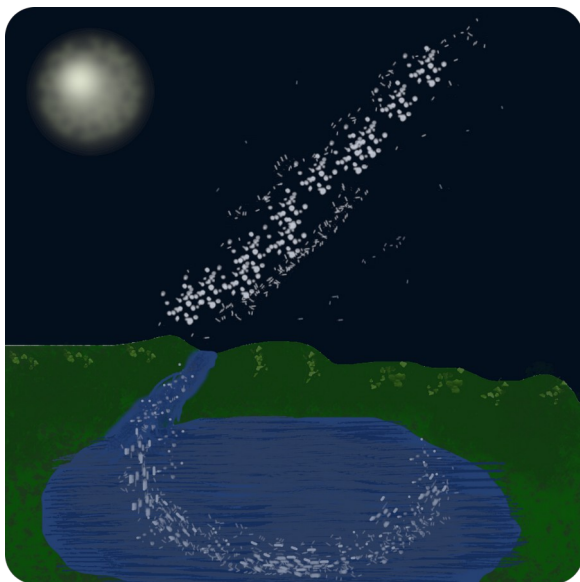
*si ALDA taouressë  
ná tengwava essë  
i laica ar varnä  
andavë termarnë*

This tree in the forest  
is a tengwar's name  
which, brown and green  
has stood a long time.

—*Tengwa ABC*—

# Silmë

(starlight)



Elves have affection  
to starlight's perfection.  
Behold these silvery gleams  
on the lakes: exaltation!

íġn ōm̄n n̄oġm̄  
īn̄a ṛġṛḡn̄a ōġm̄  
íġīn̄a · h̄ān̄āġ  
īċġġāġn̄ān̄n̄

*Eldar samir nilmë  
an telperin SILMË  
elion, fainailë  
angalailininnar*

Elves have affection  
to silver starlight  
of the stars emitting light  
to the Mirrormeres.

# Essë

(name)



What do you cry out in need?  
Your friend's name, aloud, indeed!  
True name, nickname, nom de guerre:  
call one, and they'll soon be there!

ᄃᄃ ᄃᄃᄃ ᄃ ᄃᄃᄃ ᄃᄃᄃᄃᄃ  
ᄃᄃᄃ ᄃᄃᄃ ᄃᄃᄃᄃᄃ ᄃᄃᄃᄃᄃ  
ᄃ ᄃᄃᄃ ᄃᄃᄃᄃᄃ ᄃ ᄃᄃᄃᄃ ᄃ ᄃᄃᄃᄃᄃ .  
ᄃᄃᄃ ᄃᄃᄃᄃ ᄃ ᄃᄃᄃᄃ ᄃᄃᄃᄃ

*mana carityë mi branga lúmessë?  
hapeä tyen málotyava cilmessë!  
hya senya an-ESSË ya renis o népë -  
úlumë úvatyë mi naica eressë*

What do you do in a hard time?  
The nickname of your friend helps you!!  
or his given-name that he remembers  
from youth -  
you'll never be in a bitter solitude!

—Tengwa ABC—

## Hyarmen

(south)



Seagulls fly throughout the south  
overhead the river's mouth  
to the water, waves and foam,  
serenade the sea they roam.

እኩጠጠ ሷጎ ጦርጠ  
ጠእህ ጎጠ ጎ ጎጎጠ  
ጎጠ ከርጎጎጎ ጠጎጠ  
ርጎጎ ጎጎጎጠ

*HYARMEN yasse vilir  
maiwi or i etsir  
an falastala nén  
lirila eären*

South where fly  
gulls over the mouth of a river  
to foaming water  
singing for the sea.

# Yanta

(bridge)



A bridge can cross a torrid stream  
that else unfordable may seem.

The only path I seek to find  
is to your inner heart and mind.

᠘ᠢᠨᠲᠠ ᠯᠠᠭᠠ ᠰᠢᠷ  
ᠯᠠ ᠰᠢᠷᠢ ᠶ᠋ᠢ ᠠᠪᠠᠨᠢᠷ  
ᠠᠫᠤ ᠴᠡᠫᠠᠨ ᠷᠢᠡ  
ᠡᠨᠳᠠᠲᠢᠶᠠᠨᠨᠠ ᠲᠢᠡ

*YANTA langa sír  
lá síry' avanir  
apa cépan rië  
endatyanna tië*

A bridge crosses a river  
across the river's unwill  
but I am searching only  
a road to your heart.

# Úrë

(heat)



Heat our faces  
by sun's graces;  
past cold night  
comes warmth and light.



—Tengwa ABC—

**Halla**

(tall)



From atop this soaring tree  
looking out what do you see?

Far beyond the canopy  
of green, all and infinity.

ᖃᖃ ᖃᖃ· ᖃᖃᖃᖃ :  
ᖃᖃᖃᖃᖃ ᖃᖃᖃ  
ᖃᖃᖃ ᖃᖃᖃ ᖃᖃᖃ  
ᖃᖃᖃᖃ ᖃᖃᖃᖃ

*HALLA ald' alalla.  
aldingallo palla  
taurë ecë tuvë  
imbaro ilúvë*

A tall tree keeps growing.  
From the tree-top, far beyond  
(the) forest, one can see  
the whole of the world.

# Telco

(stem)



A lone-legged tray  
for fruit display  
can also bear  
a vowel there.

ḷč̣í íyč̣ł  
řč̣ý č̣jč̣łč̣ł  
č̣j́ íý łč̣ṛ̌  
ńó j̣č̣ṛ̌č̣ł

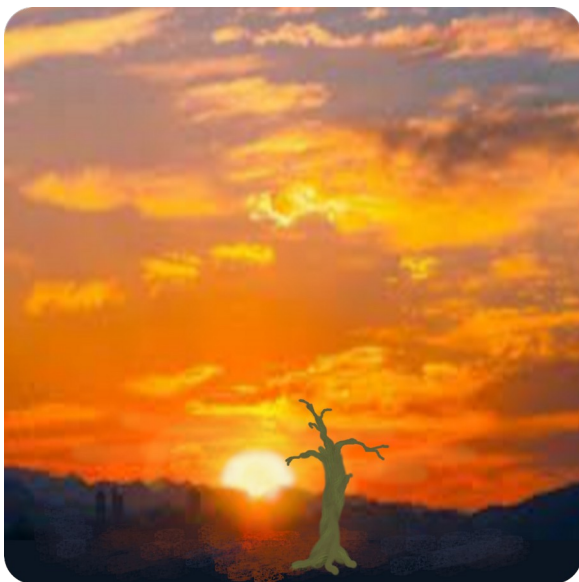
*aiya erinqua*  
*TELCO yávinqua*  
*lá ecë hehta*  
*nu ómatehta*

Behold a lone  
(but) fruitful leg.  
You cannot omit it  
under a vowel.

—Tengwa ABC—

**Ára**

(dawn)



Laurelin as dying deed  
bore the Sun, a cherished seed.  
To see the east in dawn aglow  
good Ariën, our thanks we show!

ṬōýṬṁ ÷ṁṁṁ ṫṫ  
çṫṫ : i ṫṫṫ ṫṫṫ :  
ýṫṫ ṫṫṫṫ ṫṫ ṫṫ  
ṫṫṫṫ ṫṫṫṫ ṫṫṫ

*Laurelin yavane telda  
yáva: i Anar ammelda.  
cenile rómen nu ÁRA  
bentalvë Ariën mára*

Laurelin bore at last  
a fruit: the much-loved Sun.  
Seeing the east under (the) dawn  
we thank good Ariën.

—*Tengwa ABC*—

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—Chæred, 2023

—*Tengwa ABC*—

## Resources

If you want to read more about Quenya, and reading and writing tengwar, here are some references:

- [1] *Lord of the Rings*, by J.R.R. Tolkien (1954) — the source of all sources
- [2] <https://at.boktypografen.se/> — an in-depth explanation of the elvish writing systems
- [3] <https://tecendil.org/> — for transcribing into tengwar, in many fonts
- [4] <https://eldamo.org/> — the encyclopedic repository for Quenya words and grammar
- [5] <https://realelvish.net/> — a rich source of Quenya materials
- [6] <https://glæmscrafu.jrrvf.com> — how to use tengwar in websites
- [7] <https://ungwe.net/text/abc> — the online version of these poems

—*Tengwa ABC*—

*The End*

—*Tengwa ABC*—

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