

COVID-19

(A conundrum in multiple strains)

- Rosella M Torrecampo

dybbuk

alternative spelling

dibbuk

both pronounced

/dɪˈbʊk/

from Hebrew *dābaq*,

meaning, to “adhere” or “cling”

“*ru’ah tezazit*”

unclean spirit

from the outside

wanting in.

in Jewish lore,

a malicious, lost soul,

the already dead

fated to accomplish

a vengeful goal;

a possessing parasite

to be exorcised.

for the malevolent

what is, is not so

unless end to end

from fall to salvation

the lesson reversed;

evil when made evident,

tip of tail to coronal horn:

kubbid

then, take 19, in two moves flip,

as was above, now below;

then right to left, or left to right--

a dark mirror, matters not now--

rue that *tezazit, tizazet!*

lateral, bidirectional vectors

work for it, somehow;

sequent 61, added per tradition

yields 7 but not of heaven.

in the Kabbalah's way,
ⴁ actually is *vav* or *wav*,
the gematria equalling 6,
arrived at in moves of 3.

vav/wav means alternatively, “and,”
“web,” “network,” “connect;”
dare you do this next?

in either upper or lower cases,
co-vid,
when *vid*, variant of Latin *vis*,
means “to see”
and *co* is “together or same,”
can you re-envision as do I,
see the same, see as same?
count you also lines of this game,
the vile crowned heads, name.

Assoc Prof Rosella Moya-Torrecampo is at that critically-compromised age, who now contemplates after thirty-five years of praxis, the future of teaching in the time of COVID at the Department of English and Comparative Literature at the College of Arts and Letters, University of the Philippines, Diliman. Her interests, informed from the start by the wonderment of childhood and her undergraduate degree (AB English, Imaginative Writing, *mcl*, UPDil), are folklore and creative writing, which later were enhanced and diversified by graduate (MA Comparative Literature, UPDil) and postgraduate (Doctorate in Education Leadership, Graduate School of Public and Management Development, Development Academy of the Philippines) pursuits in local history, cultural anthropology, language, brain-based learning, contingency curricula and education leadership studies.