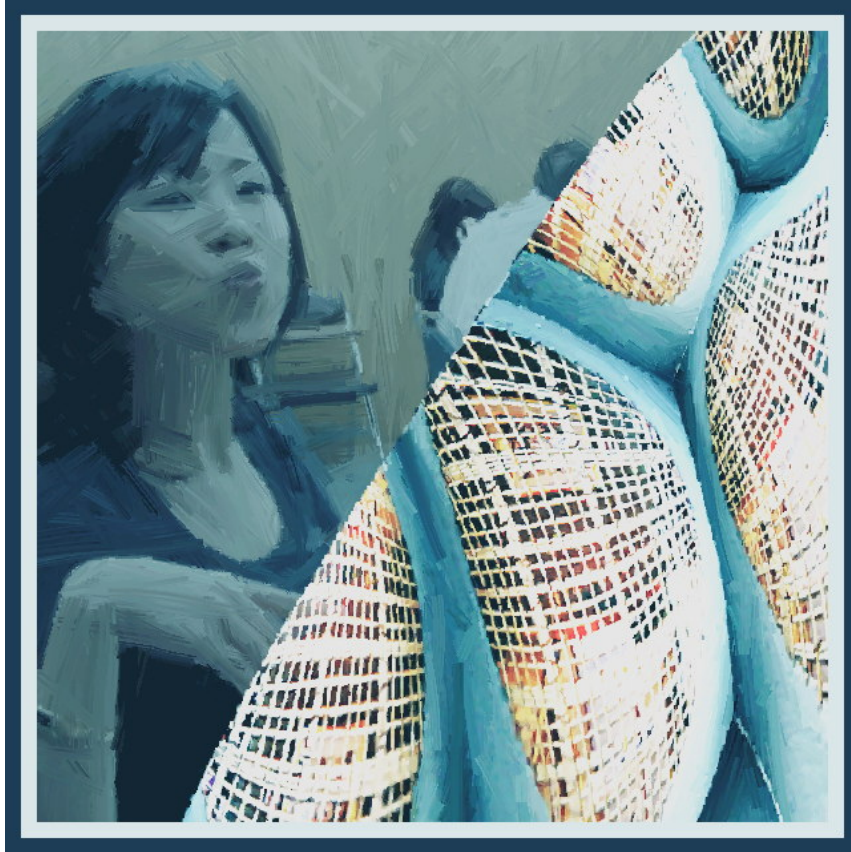


# SHANGHAI BABY:

*Why Male Conversations Are Often Lame  
& Exploring the Alchemy of Romantic Attraction*



*Daiki:* (gazing at the image, then half in jest) What is it with Asian women?

*An-Yi:* (dispassionately) Are you trying to ask a meaningful question?

*Daiki:* I mean, ahh — gee. Why are Asian women so attractive?

*An-Yi:* (sighing) Do you really want to have this sort of conversation?

*Chariya:* (shaking his head ) Nah, let's steer clear of it . . .

Let us pretend  
that we love each other  
& imagine  
human beings actually care

Let us fantasize  
the world is beautiful  
& conjecture about  
the value of your hair.

With enough creative imagination  
almost any love pattern is possible  
& when the broad wings of fantasy  
encounter powerful jet streams of desire  
normal restraints become untethered  
as the Jade Emperor meets the celestial princess  
in a court in Jin'an near Shanxi Rd.  
& ordinary stones appear as gold.

*Bhāraté:* (reflecting on the previous conversation) Why do so many conversations  
go like that?

*Chariya:* (shrugging his shoulders) . . . Huh? Like what? (pausing) Oh, like that!  
Well, the best way to be happy is to seek happiness within and stop  
stopping worrying about external conversations. Conversations many  
appear to have social value, but they have absolutely no inherent  
existential worth.

- T Newfields

Beg.: 2008 in Tokyo, Japan    ≡    Fin.: 2021 in Yokohama, Japan

