**i not I**

i was at a poet’s group the other day

they don’t like my use of the lower-case i

i will continue to use it despite the criticism

but i do owe you an explanation

there is no modern poetry

all the continents are explored

the map is drawn

the intrepid have nowhere new to go

i suppose we could still do

poetry underwater

or climb to the top of a mountain

and shout at the world

but when stoned men sit

babble and bark

and call it poetry,

let me off the bus

so why do i maintain

this relic of the past?

you may have guessed

that it is a conceit of form

like spelling phonetically

or using crazy fonts

or repeating syllables with

strange inversions

but it is not a construct of form

i do it

with good reason

and i will always do so

since i was a teenager

i have seen

that the world could be

a better place

what we all need

is a good dose of humble

you is not capitalized

him and her are not capitalized

him is only Him

when we refer

to an imaginary being

there is no equivalent Her

why should I

have the only capital?

i am not the most important

us is the most important

until us is Us

then my i will be i

and i will take my dose of humble

with my daily bread