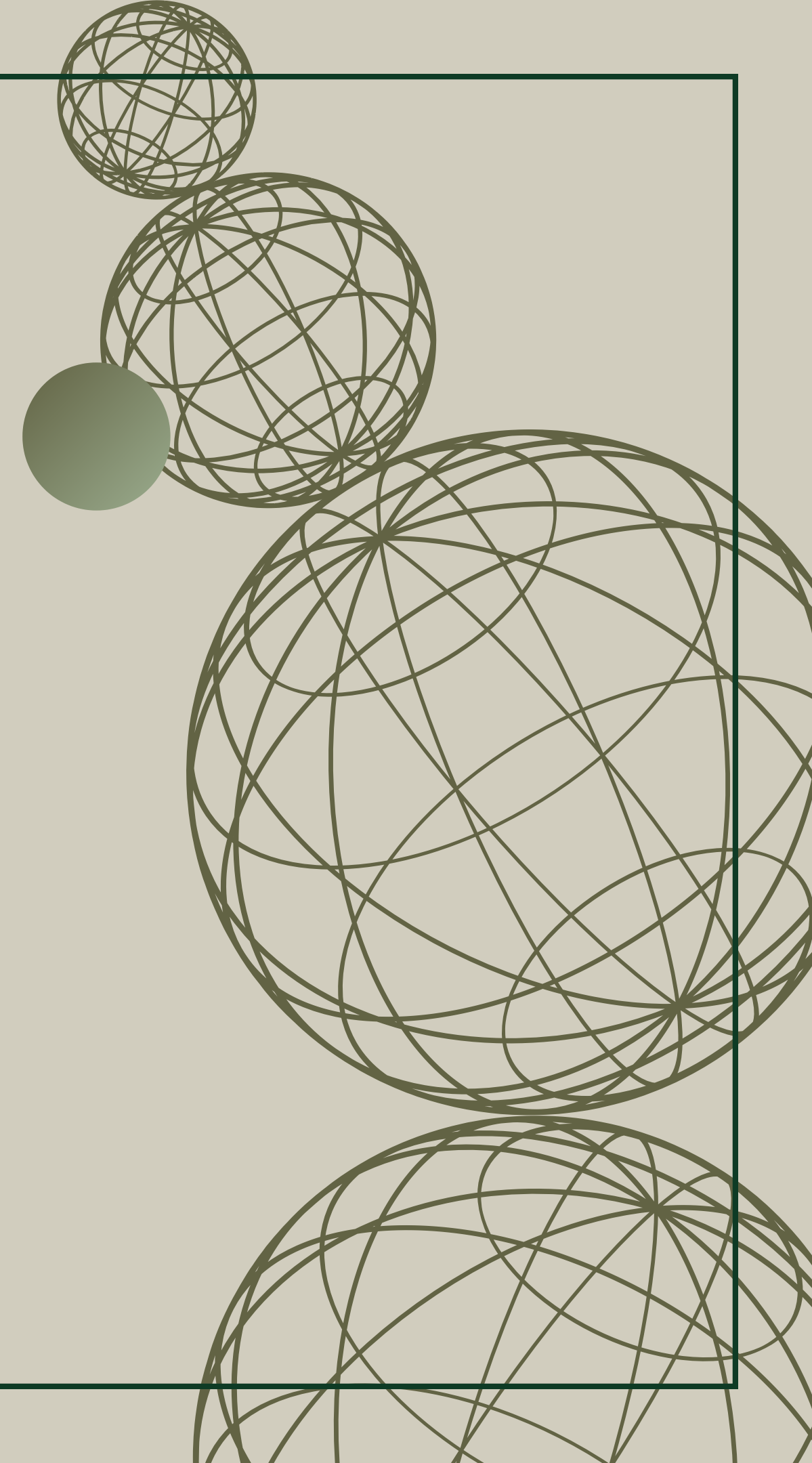


CUT-OUTS

by Tai Tien



Tai-Tien, whose real name is Tai-Chen-Yi, majored in English at the Taiwan University. Very much interested in French poetry, he also tries his hand at writing French verses. He is one of the publishers of Modern Literature, a Chinese publication in English.



***we do not know ourselves
even if we uncover the heavy curtains
facing the severe black-robed priest
and take off our masks
prostrated
sometimes in the dimness of the early morning
a show appears
also because of the season
we do not wish to stand in this world of cares
to see the sunrise***



***and night after night we cry
using our tearless tears
to mourn the disappearance of a picture
then we wring dry our emotions
and hang them to sun on the transcient rainbow***



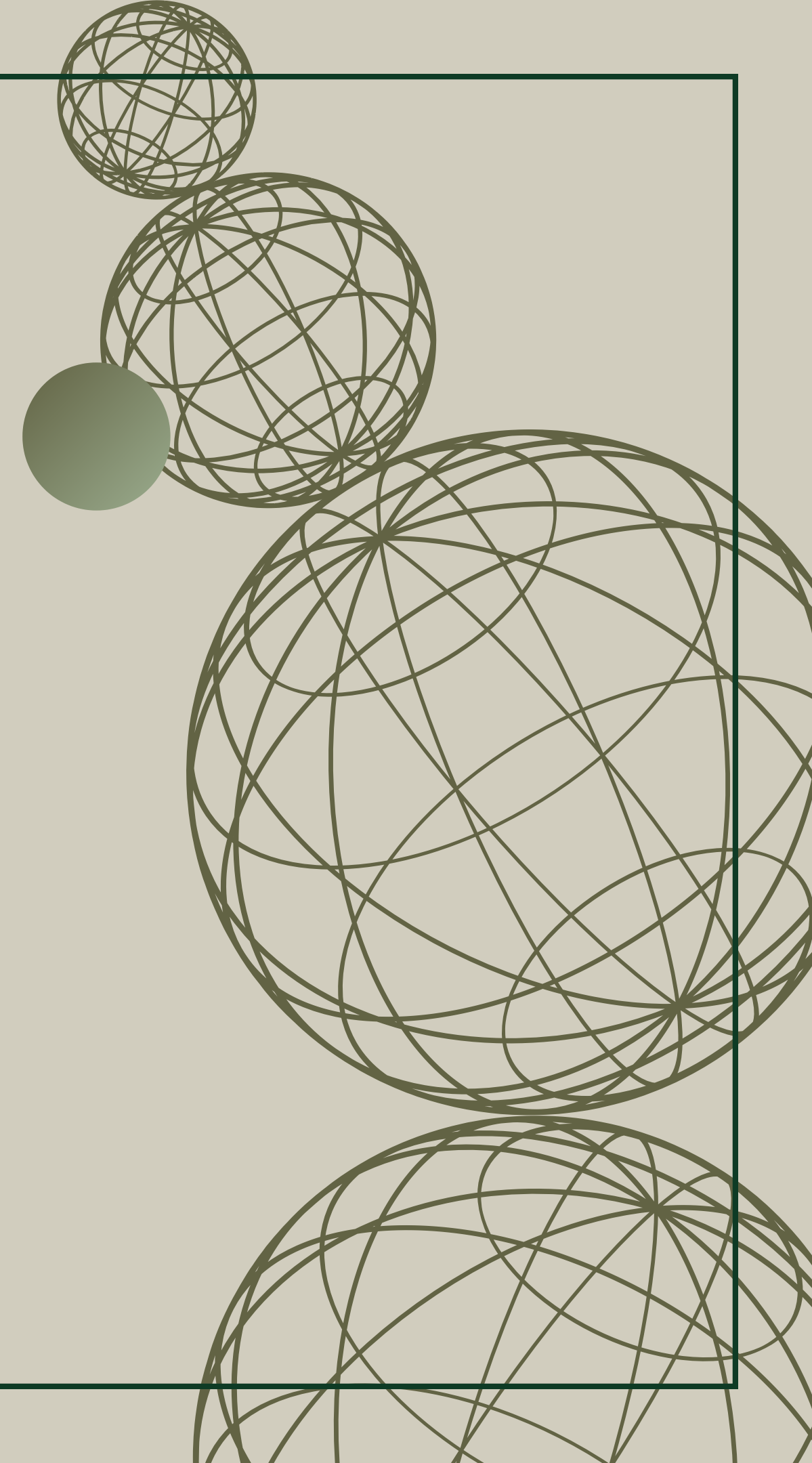
***although the sun has burnt us
our youth is still assembled
in an unknown place
gathered with strange wrinkles
waiting for memory to reach out both hands
to wipe away the dust from the moon***



***many are the times when we cross
the crossroads
the voice shrilly says
that many heroes will die
at times also dividing and diffusing
among the nude and bare shouldered
advertisements
that stand between each and other footsteps***



***we desire to embrace the heavens
to feel the far-conquering clouds and the
stallion-like wind
to feel the bubbling spring under the
hanging cliffs
a sea of burning dreams
but after your two hands are folded
only we are left***



***our life is not a vacuum
out of the cracks of our teeth are ground
the dregs of the loves of this one or the other
and even women
roll into the fog of our eyes
and there occurs a chemical reaction.***



The poem shows the struggles of understanding ourselves, the sadness of losing dreams, and the effects of time and aging. It also talks about how society distracts us, but at the same time, people still desire to reach their dreams and feel something greater. In the end, life is not empty — it is filled with memories, love, and emotions that continue to shape who we are.