

COMPARISONS of LANGUAGES INVOLVED IN WALAM OLUM (MAALAN AARUM)

WALAM OLUM

eluwi-chitanesit
Eluwitakauwesit
elowichiksit
elowichick
del sinewo
|
v
the stongest
the most united
the purest
were the hunters
? no recorded words?

ALGONQUIN

ei-ow tschitennessin
ei-ow tokchooaesit
eluwiwuliksit
ei-ow chekee
poh (dulheu) shinau

OLD NORSE

eiga standadha
eiga taa-skyya sit
(eiga) allr fraegi sit
eiga sterkr
dair (sin aa)
|
v
he hardened
he (reached) to the sky
(he was) extremely good
he had (violent) strength
breast (separate like)

WORD (PHRASE) BY WORD (PHRASE) DECIPHERMENT

(All references are to Sherwin's eight volumes of the *Viking and the Red Man*)

Original English	the stongest	
Recorded sounds	eluwi- chitanesit	1*
Algonquin words	ei-ow tschitennessin	v. 1 p. 45 & v. 6 p. 135
Old Norse	eiga standadha	2*
Norse/English	he has hardened	
Original English	the most united	
Recorded sounds	Eluwi tak auwe sit	1*
Algonquin words	ei-ow tok chooae sit	v. 1 p. 45 & v. 1 p. 203
Old Norse	eiga taa-skyya sit	3*
Norse/English	he (reaches) to the sky	
Original English	the purest	
Recorded sounds	Elowi chik sit	1*
Algonquin words	eluwi wulik sit	v. 1 p. 45 & v. 6 p. 27
Old Norse	(eiga) allr fraegi sit	4*
Norse/English	(he became) extremely good	
Original English	Were the hunters	
Recorded sounds	elowi chick	1*
Algonquin words	ei-ow chekee	v. 1 p. 45 & v. 5 p. 25
Old Norse	eiga sterkr	
Norse/English	he had (violent) strength	5*
Original English	? no recorded words?	
Recorded sounds	del sinewo	
Algonquin words	(poh) dulheu (shinau)	v. 6, p. 102 & v. 7 p. 18
Old Norse	dair sin aa?)	6*
Norse/English	breast (separate like)	

1* Howe, a translator, wrote: “Eiow (possessive), He has it.” Sherwin wrote, “Old Norse ‘eiga’ is pronounced very much like the English ‘aya.’”

2* See Chintanes-sin in Walam Olum Chap. 3 verse 4.

3* “Sit” is the Old Norse reflexive pronoun used to indicate the person who receives the benefits. The correct use of the reflexive pronouns “sin,” “sit,” and “sik” through out the Walam Olum is very strong evidence the original creators were speaking Old Norse.

4* The Old Norse owrd “allr”, compared to the surrounding “eluwi” words and the syllables “eluwi” in the Algonquin phrase implies that the Old Norse phrase “eiga fraegi sit” may have started as “He was good” and then became an idiom meaning he was “extremely good.” The latter meaning may have been in use when the Walam Olum was created.

Even today in some Indian communities of Oklahoma the highest praise, in English, rarely given to a white face is “You done good.”

Sherwin, who may have not have known the idiom, may have attempted to choose literal Old Norse words to fit the meaning of idiom and selected “allr.”

5* The original English and the Old Norse English differ on this verse. Maybe the Historian knew the correct concept of violent strength but had difficulty explaining it to the Recorder. Perhaps both knew the word as an idiom for hunters. Hunters are often violently strong.

6* This Walam Olum word seems out of place with the description of the hunters in the rest of the verse. An early Memorizer or the Historian may have added this word as an afterthought because he may have been concerned that the concept of separating had not stressed enough in translation of the previous verse.

“Dair.” an Icelandic word, meant, “breast.” “Dulheu,” came from the Lenape tribes who may have migrated from Greenland. “Pohsinau,” an east coast Algonquin word, meant “breast” and also “divided like breasts.”

Sherwin proposed that “pohsinau” morphed from Old Norse “bresta,” but the transition is difficult to believe in this case. “Poh” more likely morphed from the original Icelandic “dair,” which may have also morphed into the modern Norwegian “parre,” which may be an earlier word for the English “pair.”

“Dair sin aa,” which might have been an idiom meaning, “divided like my breasts they went away.” The idiom may be closer to the original meaning of the Walam Olum word. The Historian is likely to have known the idiom, but the Recorder may have learned only the literal meaning (“breasts”) for “Dair” and could not understand the Historian’s hand gestures for “separate like breasts.”

Either way, if the Recorder wrote down “breasts” or “separate like breasts,” the Editor probably scratched the English translation out because the word(s) looked out of context.