

Earth/matriX
SCIENCE IN ANCIENT ARTWORK

The Sound of Meaning Series

Extract from
The Taino Language
and
Ancient Egyptian

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Introduction

No one knows how many Taino lived on the Caribbean Islands upon the arrival of the Spaniards in 1492. Estimates run between 100,000 to 1,000,000. But, everyone knows that the number of Taino left standing after the Spanish Conquest represented an infinite percent of that original population. In spite of that historical tragedy, one of many during and following the Spanish Conquest, the Taino language remains among us. The Spaniards adopted numerous Taino words into their own language, as will be seen from the glossary in this study (*cacique, colibrí, hamaca, iguana, jaiba, macana, tiburón*, etc.).

That type of borrowing the language of a conquered peoples is not the subject of this study however. I am concerned with the possible linguistic correspondence between the Taino language (at least what is known of it today), and the ancient Egyptian hieroglyphs.

In the Earth/matriX series, *The Sound of Meaning*, linguistic comparisons have already been carried out of the ancient Egyptian hieroglyphs with the languages of the Maya, the Mexica (Nahuatl), the Tunica, the Chitimacha and the Atákapa-Ishak peoples. The linguistic correspondence among these different languages illustrates the possibility that these different peoples had some kind of contact amongst themselves. For it is difficult to imagine that so many examples of morphemic and phonemic correspondence might be due to linguistic happenstance. I for one cannot imagine such a possibility.

Nearly every language studied in the series shows a particular characteristic in relation to the ancient Egyptian hieroglyphs. Nahuatl, for example, reveals itself through the elimination of the letter “L” in many of its word-concepts. When the letter “L” is dropped in Nahuatl, then ancient Egyptian words make their appearance. The languages of the North American native indians (Tunica, Chitimacha and Atákapa) show themselves to be more related to the ancient Egyptian hieroglyphs, than to one another, even though the three supposedly are members of the Choctaw family of languages. And, the Taino language, as will be observed in the following glossary, offers examples where the word-concepts reflect linguistic correspondences to the ancient Egyptian hieroglyphs on two levels: 1) where the entire word-concept reflects a word-concept in the Egyptian hieroglyphs, and 2) where the roots of a word-concept also reflect specific word-concepts in the Egyptian hieroglyphs. So, one may analyze the Taino vocabulary from the perspective of the entire word or from that of the roots that make up a particular word-concept.

From the following linguistic comparisons, in my view, the ancient Egyptian hieroglyphs and the Taino language appear to have been one and the same at some point in history, long ago. How long ago and just how this came about is beyond the scope of this brief study of specific and selected word-concepts. After reading the compared glossaries of the indigenous languages of the Americas to the ancient Egyptian hieroglyphs, I find it difficult to imagine anyone attributing all of these linguistic correspondences to happenstance or, to the idea of the spontaneous creation of languages among peoples on this Earth. For the Taino to have called *bread* by the word **yuka**, and the ancient Egyptians called *a cake offering* by that of **ukha**, would suggest some kind of contact between the two cultures. If the linguistic correspondences are the result of contact, then ancient history has yet to be written.

Taino	Ancient Egyptian Hieroglyphs
acu - eye	aakhu-t - the Eye of Ra [23a]
akani - enemy	akuiu - aliens, foreigners, enemies [11b]
ara - people	re (ret) - man [415b] rehu - men, mankind, people [429a]
atabey - Mother Earth	aten - ground, earth [13b]
bo - round <i>o = u</i>	bubu - rings, annular ornaments [215a]
bo - great lord <i>o = ua</i>	bua - to be great [215a] bua - chief, mighty one, magnate, lord, overlord [215a-b]
bohique - priests, healers	uab - holy man, priest [155a] uab aa - high priest [155a]
canoa - small boat	khenn-t - boat, skiff [576b]
caona - gold <i>s</i>	sau - gold [635b]
catey - disturb	khenn-t - disturbance [577b]
cemi, zemi - ancestors of the Taino	qemi - the land of the South --- Upper Egypt [771b]
ciba - stone	sept - a kind of stone [664a]
coki - a tree frog	kar - frog [789a]

Taino		Ancient Egyptian Hieroglyphs	
ector	- sweet soft corn	su-t	corn, grain, wheat [648b]
eieri	- men (feminine expression in Taino)	re (ret)	- man [415b]
eracra	- house	er per	- belonging to the house [415b]
goeiz	- the spirit of a living person	khui	- spirit [537b]
guaca	- region, nearness	qaa	- by, near [762b]
kachi	- the sun	aakhu-ti	- the two eyes of Horus or Ra, i.e., the sun and the moon [23a]
hura	- the wind	ur	- a violent wind, gale, storm (?) [174b]
huraca'n	- a storm	ur	- a violent wind, gale, storm (?) [174b]
		khann	- storm, violence [573a]
hutia	- rabbit	un-t	- hare [165a]
qu'emi	- rabbit	skaa-t	- hare [688b]
ita	- "do not know"	itaa	- one who knows [143b]
ke	- the Earth, the land	khui, khi	- ground, earth, estate [537b]
manicato	- a bold person, valiant, with a good heart	men ab	- firm of heart, bold, brave [297a]

Taino	Ancient Egyptian Hieroglyphs
mini - fountain, a spring of water	mama, mimi - fountain [280a]
naboria - the common people	nebu - everybody, all people [357a]
ni - water	nu - the mass of water which existed in primeval times [349b]
rahu - children	rer - child, nursling [428a]
roco - to remember, to know	rekh - to be wise, to know [430a]
taino - good, good men	tha, thai - man, male, masculine [848a]
	naanu - good, beautiful [342b]
tuna - of water	Tun ah (?) - a title of the Nile-god [825a]
	tun - rising flood, inundation [824b]
yamuy - cat	ama, amait - cat [50b]
	maau - lion, cat [269b]
yuca - bread	ukha - a cake offering [180a]
yuke - white Earth	ubekh - white [160a]
	khui, khi - ground, earth, estate [537b]

The Earth/matriX Series: The Sound of Meaning

The Sound of Meaning: Comparative Linguistics of Ancient Egyptian, Maya and Nahuatl. Earth/matriX Editions, 1999-2004.

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The Sound of Meaning: Comparative Linguistics of Ancient Egyptian Hieroglyphs with Tunica, Chitimacha and Atákapa. Earth/matriX Editions, 2006.

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