

Song of the Humpbacked Flute Player: 'This snake lad'

Stuart L. Harris, December 2011

In Book of the Hopi, historian Frank Waters published a song about the Humpbacked Flute Player who accompanied the Hopi migration to the north, so old that no one remembered its language or meaning. The language of the song was Finnish, translated here for the first time.

The people now divided into four groups, each going a different direction. With those going to the north was the Blue Flute Clan, accompanied by one of the two máhus. Every so often this Humpbacked Flute Player would stop and scatter seeds from the hump on his back. Then he would march on, playing his flute and singing a song. His song is still remembered, but the words are so ancient nobody knows what they mean.¹

This translation establishes that at one time, Hopis could speak Finnish and were able to write the petroglyph inscriptions in Old European that appear throughout the southwest.

Translation

Song

Ki-tana-po, ki-tana-po, ki-tana-po, ki-tana-po!
Ai-na, ki-na-weh, ki-na-weh
Chi-li li-cha, chi-li li-cha
Don-ka-va-ki, mas-i-ki-va-ki
Ki-ve, ki-ve-na-meh
Hopet!

Finnish

Kyy tänä po, kyy tänä po, kyy tänä po, kyy tänä po!
Aina kyyna vei, kyyna vei,
Kylli liika, kylli liika.
Tönkä-väki, maasiki-väki,
Kyy vei, kyy vehnämme
Hoi peet!

English

This snake lad, this snake lad, this snake lad, this snake lad!
Always like a snake he brought, like a snake he brought
Too much abundance, too much abundance.
Sky people, earth-born people,
A snake he brought, our precious snake,
O families!

You are invited to contact Stuart Harris about these or any other inscriptions at
PO Box 60281, Palo Alto, CA, 94306; Stuart.Harris -at- sbcglobal.net; 650-888-1859

¹ Frank Waters, 1963, *Book of the Hopi*, Penguin Books, paperback p 39.'