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NORTH ATLANTIC TIDES, TIDE FISHING TRAPS & THE MYSTERY OF LABIRINTHS

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The reversal tide flows of rivers

The contemporary researcher and writer Elena Kovaleva describes what she saw at the confluence of these two great rivers of *Tuloma* and *Kola*, when she visited the place in the fall of 2024:

“...[Here we stand] on the cape where *Tuloma* meets *Kola*, and together they form this wonderful *Kola Bay*. We arrived early, the low tide is at its minimal level point, and the pebbles I am standing on and the black island will get completely under water in just an hour and a half. The deepest tides are taking place here – with fluctuations up to 6 meters. And we were lucky enough to observe a tidal wave [backflow] on the *Tuloma* river. It is a miracle! The waters of a strong river meet a powerful stream from the Great Ocean – forehead against forehead. And a wonderful “dance of waters” begins. Curls, breakers, small and large, funnels, whirlpools – a lace, shining and shimmering under the rays of the northern sun.”¹

Also Homer tells us of the backward flows of the rivers during tides in Scheria, the land of the Phaeacians (identified by Felice Vinci with the Norwegian skerries and the predecessors of vikings of the southwest coast of Norway): after the crash of his raft, Ulysses follows along the Scherian coast, and eventually manages to find a place to land “at the mouth of a fine river / which seemed to him to be the best place / as it was free of rocks” (*Odyssey* 5.441–43). Here a sort of miracle occurs: the god of the river

*stopped its current at once, halted its flow,
became still and drew him to safety
in the mouth of the river (Odyssey 5.451–453).*

As Felice Vinci stresses it out, “while this is very uncommon in a Mediterranean context, where the tides are almost imperceptible and the rivers’ currents push unceasingly to the sea, this phenomenon is absolutely normal on Atlantic shores, where the flood tide periodically washes up the rivers, allowing ships to come into the estuaries”.

It is these Atlantic tides (along the coasts of France, Britain, Norway, and the Kola Peninsula) that also allow us to lift the curtain on the main secret of the stone labyrinths, as will be revealed below.

Stone labyrinths of the North and the Tide Fishing Traps

Scattered throughout the British Isles, along the Atlantic coasts of Norway and the Kola Peninsula, on the White Sea islands, on Novaya Zemlya island, as well as in Sweden and Finland, there exist the stony structures in the form of a labyrinth, laid out on the surface of the earth with small stones. The short axis always passes through the “entrance” of such labyrinths. Stones are laid out in a single row, forming the concentric circles of complex spirals. In the center of these labyrinths, sometimes there is a small dolmen-like structure.

¹ Елена Ковалева, «Вглубь веков по спирали»: <https://vk.com/id446582927>



Stone labyrinths on the Solovetsky Islands in the White Sea

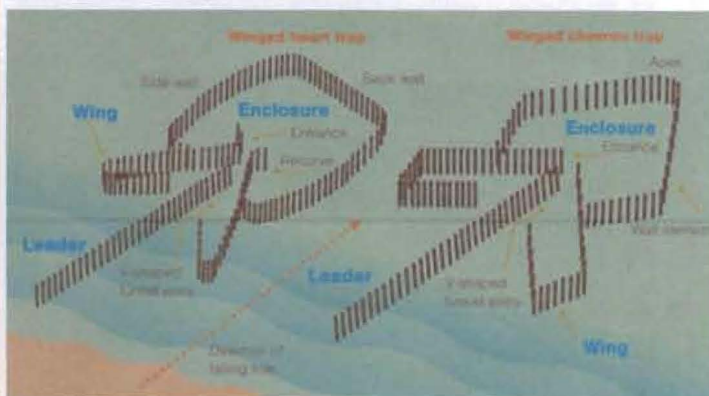
Archaeologist N.Gurina, who was exploring the stone labyrinths of the North, was traveling by train to Murmansk in 1947 and made the following unexpected discovery at the mouth of the *Kola* river:

"...Closer to Kola, high hills made of sand and pebbles became visible again. From Kola to Murmansk, out of the train window, we could observe the following picture: the Kola river flows into a narrow sea bay. There was a strong low tide when our train moved along this part of the coast. Fishermen nets were visible everywhere, tied to stakes driven into the ground. Some of them were located at an angle, some in the form of spirals, with the entrance facing the shore. The fish, following the decreasing waters of the low tide, were getting caught into the nets [through these entrances]. We could see fishermen wandering along the wet bottom and collecting fish. All this reminded me of... labyrinths and their orientation – with the entrances facing the shore.

A few days later we came to examine these structures up closer. We learned that they were called "caches" («тайники»), and made sketches and photographs of the now forever forgotten traps:"



Gurina continues: "A brief description of the traps-hides can be reduced to the following. Near an island or continent, a wall of net is installed, perpendicular to the shore, about twenty-four meters long. Perpendicular to it, there is another high wall of net, the ends of which are rounded in the form of an unclosed oval, leaving a narrow gap for the fish to enter. The principle of fishing is based on the fact that at the moment of the low sea tide, the water does not cover the high net all the way to the top. When the water level goes down, the fish that entered the net try to follow the decreasing waters, but stumble upon the net, which runs parallel to the shore. In search of an exit, the fish makes its way into a narrow gap – the opening of the ovals – and gets trapped."



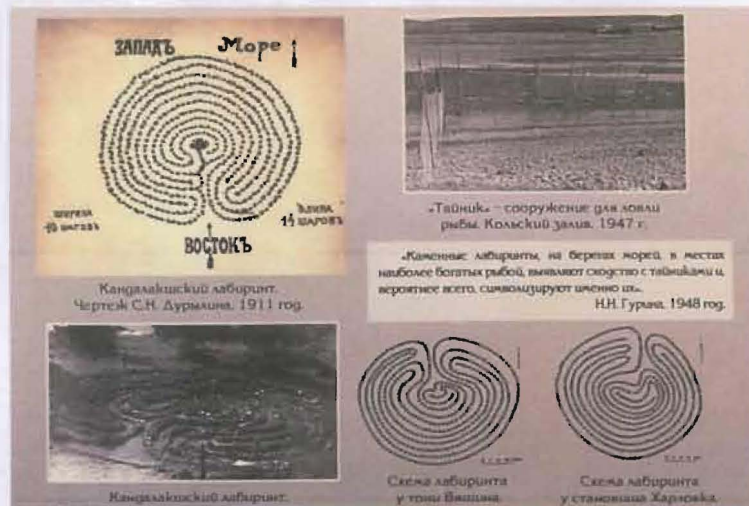
“The most interesting thing is that the lower ends of the net are secured with a row of stones that form a heart-shaped figure. Thus, after the water recedes, *stone structures similar in configuration to the labyrinths laid out on the shore are revealed at the bottom of the sea!*”

Gurina concludes that:

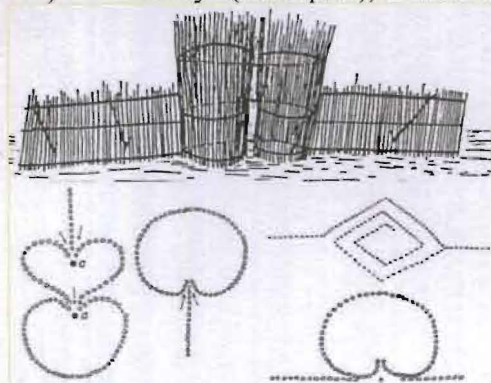
Gurina further supports the thesis about the connection between stone labyrinths and fishing traps with the following arguments: "A more detailed examination of the location of northern stone labyrinths, and in particular in the Kola Peninsula, Finland and Norway, led us to the conclusion that the absolute majority of them are located not merely on the seashores, but near large river estuaries, especially rich in fish, mainly those where salmon come to spawn. It is therefore not surprising that several labyrinths were laid out near large rivers (e.g. at Ponoy, Varzina estuaries)."

[illegible]

² *Время, врезанное в камень*. Н.Н. Гурина (Из истории древних лапландцев), Мурманское книжное издательство. 1982 г. <https://kandalaksha.org/interesno/377-kamennye-labirinty-severa-prodolzhenie.html>



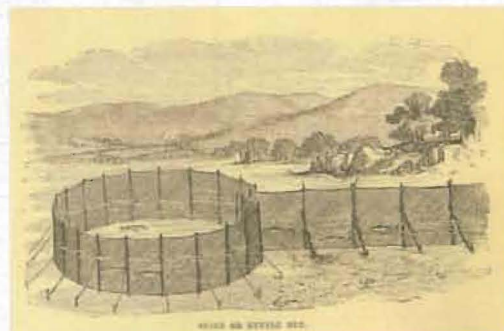
Gurina points out that the traps themselves were also widespread along rivers inside the continent: "...in Northern Asia they were called "kotets" («котец»), in Central Russia – "kotezy" («котеzy») and "zabory" («заборы»), in the North – "ubegi" («убеги»).



In the picture: fishing traps (kotsy, koty) of the Neolithic era from the Oka river valley³

Compare the name of the fishing traps "kot, kotets, kotez" with Udmurt *kõt*, Estonian *kott*, Finnish *kotti* – meaning "a bag"; "a belly".⁴ Accordingly, it is appropriate to compare the Greek word λαβύρινθος with the Greek λαπάρα – "a groin", "a womb".⁵

Below are some examples of fishing traps used along the Atlantic coast in Western Europe:



Tidal traps in Britain and the Atlantic coast of France

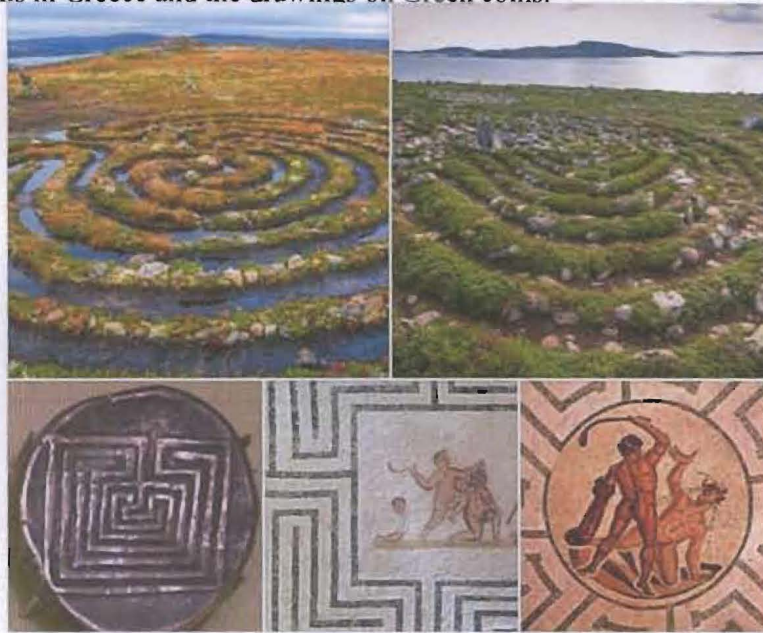
³ <https://dzen.ru/a/WrgxLQQtLklOfX9>

⁴ <https://new-etymology.livejournal.com/142763.html>

⁵ <https://anti-fasmer.livejournal.com/550624.html>

Stone labyrinths of the North and the Greek labyrinths

It is curious that the shape of the stone labyrinths of the North corresponds to the mosaic images of labyrinths in Greece and the drawings on Greek coins:



Greek coin copying the labyrinths from the Bothnian coast of the Baltic:



The labyrinth patterns are similar to those depicted in the **Mediterranean**, where, **however, there are no significant tides and similar fishing traps were not set up**. Thus, we can conclude that the **Mediterranean labyrinths reflect the memory of the historical northern homeland**.

There are more and more parallels and facts testifying to the northern ancestral home of the Mediterranean civilization and Greek mythology and culture.

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