

Ki, Kiš, Enki, and Their Kartvelian Origin

This lecture addresses some of the most burning issues in Near Eastern Studies, especially those involving the etymological study of proto-cuneiform lexemes. One such lexeme is the ED *ki*, meaning 'land', 'place'. It belongs to the Sumerian core vocabulary and judging by the number of its derived and compound words, it must have heavily contributed to word-formation processes. Despite the lexeme's high derivational "activity", which is usually the sign of its autochthonic origin, the latter still remains unknown. Hence, *the primary task of this paper is to expand ki's etymologization through its comparison with Kartvelian languages and culture*. The described approach involves the study of the word's three proto-cuneiform signs, the formation of its cuneiform grapheme, and helps build a more complete picture of *ki's* graphic and semantic evolution.

The results of the first stage of the analysis are verified through the examination of four lexemes (*kiana* 'cultic place', *ki-mah* 'grave', etc.), whose Kartvelian archetypes correct, modify or completely change the accepted readings or meanings of analyzed words. Particular attention is paid to retrieving the multi-layered esoteric information from the proto-cuneiform *KI@nxDUB~a*, which is made possible by Kartvelian linguoculturological evidence.

The second item under discussion is the place-name of *Kiš*, one of the most significant Sumerian city-states where kingship descended for the second time. Similar to *kiš*, the name is studied in conjunction with the Kartvelian evidence, which retrieves its meaning, phono-semantic connections with *ki*, and exposes Kartvelian grammatical features when the two words (*ki*, *Kiš*) are analyzed together.

The third item discussed in the paper is the enigmatic name of the god of the subterranean waters of Abzu. It is Enki, "the crafty god" of the Sumerian divine pantheon who represents fertility and, more importantly, wisdom. Enki is assumed to be a Sumerian name, but in fact it is made up of two Kartvelian general vocabulary items. Being a male deity ('Lord'), the etymological study of Enki's first

constituent (En) required the analysis of NIN 'Lady'. The Kartvelian evidence reveals very deeply concealed Kartvelian etymologies for both names, shows their origin from Kartvelian general vocabulary items, and demonstrates a harmonious unity of the Sumerian and archetypical semantics of the names. This profound unification of the lexemes, traditionally belonging to chronologically, geographically, and linguistically unrelated languages cannot but represent inseparable entities of the same system. This system, as demonstrated in my works, is a double-faced naturo-cryptic Kartvelo-Sumerian code system.

(Word count 399).