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THE CONQUERING BAAL AND THE
NAME OF INDRA: LINGUISTIC
AND POETIC
ENCOUNTERS IN BRONZE AGE
SYRIA

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RESEARCH PROJECT "THE WORDS OF THE STORM GODS"

THREE STORM GODS MET – BUT WHERE?

- *'ALIYN B'L* (UGARITIC – NW SEMITIC – "CONQUERING BAAL")
- *INDRA-* (VEDIC SANSKRIT, MITANNI-INDIC *IN-DA-RA*)
- *TŪRVANT-/TARḤUNT-/TARḤUNNA-* ("CONQUEROR", "STORM GOD", VEDIC & ANATOLIAN)

INDO-EUROPEAN "CONQUEROR" AS AN EPITHET OF STORM GODS

- VEDIC *TŪRVANT-*, WITH PARALLELS IN AVESTAN.
- HITTITE *TARḪUNNA-*, LUWIAN *TARḪU(WA)NT-*.
- ALL THESE ARE FROM PIE **TRH₂-U-(E)NT-*, "CONQUERING ONE, OVERCOMING ONE, VICTORIOUS ONE".
- APPARENTLY AN ANCIENT INDO-EUROPEAN EPITHET OF THE VICTORIOUS STORM-GOD (EICHNER, KLOEKHORST).

INDRA

- THE VEDIC CONQUERING STORM GOD EXTRAORDINAIRE.
- ETYMOLOGY UNCLEAR: CLASSICAL, BUT PROBLEMATIC, IDEA: FROM **H₂NRO-*, "MANLY".
- BUT THE PHONOLOGY IS DIFFICULT: ONE WOULD EXPECT VEDIC ***ARA-*, VEL. SIM.





INDRA IN THE BRONZE AGE ANCIENT NEAR EAST!

- THE NAME IS EVEN PRESENT IN BRONZE AGE SYRIA, IN MITANNI, AS *IN-DA-RA* OR *IN-TAR-*.
- AND HERE, A SOLUTION MAY BE ON THE HORIZON.

UGARIT

- BRONZE AGE SYRIA.
- POLYLINGUAL. SEMITIC-SPEAKING, BUT ALSO INFLUENCES FROM, E.G., THE HITTITES AND EGYPT.
- BUT: ALSO HURRIANS/MITANNI.
- OF INTEREST HERE: ANOTHER SERPENT-SLAYING STORM GOD – BAAL.

Black Sea

Caucasus

Caspian

ANATOLIA

Hittites

Arzawa

Mitanni

Crete

Assur

Ugarit

MESOPOTAMIA

Cyprus

Canaan

Akkad

Elam

Mediterranean

Sumer

Egypt

Red Sea

Persian Gulf



UGARITIC BAAL

- *'ALIYN B'L*, "THE CONQUERING LORD" (ROOT ALSO CONNECTED TO "BEING A HUSBAND", "RULERSHIP", ETC.).
- MOST OF BAAL'S ATTRIBUTES ARE HELD IN COMMON WITH OTHER NWS CULTURES, SUCH AS THAT OF BIBLICAL HEBREW. BAAL AND YHWH ARE IDEOLOGICAL COUSINS.
- THE *'ALIYN* TITLE IS, HOWEVER, UNIQUE!

PROPOSED EXPLANATION

- INDO-EUROPEAN INFLUENCE – CALQUING FROM THE PIE **TRH₂-U-ENT-*TITLES PRESENT BOTH IN ANATOLIA AND INDIA (AND THEREBY, IN ALL PROBABILITY, MITANNI).

BUT WE CAN GO FURTHER

- PIE **TRH₂-U-NT-H₂NRO-*, "THE CONQUERING MANLY ONE", WHICH WOULD EQUAL A SANSKRIT COMPOUND *TŪRVAD-INDRA-*.
- BOTH ELEMENTS ARE DEMONSTRABLY USED IN THE VEDIC TEXTS.
- **THE PROBABLY CALQUED UGARITIC TITLE PROVIDES SECOND-HAND EVIDENCE FOR THIS COMPOUND TITLE HAVING BEEN PRESENT IN EARLY INDO-IRANIAN (IN THIS CASE, MITANNI-INDIC).**

THE NAME OF INDRA-

- **H₂NRO-* ("MANLY") WOULD FIT EXTREMELY WELL SEMANTICALLY, BUT ONE WOULD NOT EXPECT A VOCALIZED LARYNGEAL (GIVING /-) HERE, BUT RATHER A VOCALIZED NASAL.

BUT: **TRH₂-U-NT-H₂NRO-*!

- SUCH A COMPOUND WOULD CREATE A CONSONANTAL ENVIRONMENT, WHICH WOULD MAKE **TŪRVADIN(D)RA-* PLAUSIBLE, WITH INTERCONSONANTALLY VOCALIZED **H₂!* CF. *STHITA-* FROM **STH₂TO-* ("STOOD").
- THE COMPOUND WOULD THEN HAVE BEEN SEGMENTED, LEAVING ONLY *INDRA-*.
- FOR THE LATTER PROCESS, CF. (Ś)*CANDRA-MAS-* ("GLIMMERING MOON") BEING SIMPLIFIED TO *CANDRA-*, MEANING "MOON".

POSSIBLE COUNTER-ARGUMENT

- PIE LARYNGEAL BEFORE RESONANT SEEMS TO WORK DIFFERENTLY THAN BEFORE A STOP CONSONANT:
- * $\acute{G}ERH_2NT$ - ("OLD, AGED") YIELDS SANSKRIT *JARAT*-.
- * H_1ESH_2R - ("BLOOD, GORE") YIELDS SANSKRIT *ASṚ-K*-.
- BOTH YIELD VOCALIZED RESONANT, NOT -/ - PLUS RESONANT (AS IN THE CASE WITH STOPS).

BUT!

- KORTLANDT *APUD* BEEKES 1981:
- "FOUR CONSONANT RULE": THERE IS A TENDENCY FOR $*H_2$ TO VOCALIZE AS // IN INDO-IRANIAN WHEN FOUR CONSONANTS APPEAR IN A ROW WITHIN A WORD.
- THE PROOF CASE CONSISTS IN VARIATIONS THROUGHOUT THE INFLECTION OF $*PH_2TER-$ ("FATHER") IN AVESTAN. SOME FORMS HAVE *PTA-*, WHEREAS OTHERS HAVE *PITA-*.
- THE IDEA IS THAT THE MASSIVE CLUSTER $*PH_2TR-$ FACILITATED VOCALIZATION/EPENTHESIS OF //.
- IN OUR CASE: FIVE OR SIX CONSONANTS IN A ROW! : $-NTH_2N(D)R-$

THUS!

- A MITANNIAN-TO-UGARITIC CALQUE (WITH ADDITIONAL BOLSTERING FROM ANATOLIAN) WOULD
- (A) EXPLAIN THE SINGULAR TITLE OF UGARITIC BAAL.
- (B) SHOW THE ANTIQUITY OF AN INDO-EUROPEAN POETIC COLLOCATION CONCERNING THE CONQUERING MANLY STORM GOD.
- (C) PROVIDE A POSSIBLE EXPLANATION FOR THE NAME OF THE POSTER-BOY OF INDO-EUROPEAN "CONQUERING STORM GOD"-NESS AND SOLVE A LONG-STANDING CONUNDRUM.

- NORTHWEST SEMITIC-SPEAKING UGARIT THUS PROVIDES AN APEX, PRESERVING INDO-EUROPEAN POETIC AND THEOLOGICAL TERMINOLOGY THAT THE IE-LANGUAGES SUBSEQUENTLY CHANGED.
- HISTORICAL LINGUISTICS/ETYMOLOGICAL POETICS AND CONTACT STUDIES - TOGETHER.
- THREE STORM GODS MET IN SYRIA – AND WHAT THE RESULT TEACHES US IS MUCH MORE THAN THE SUM OF THE PARTS.
- IN TRUTH, THESE ARE "THE WORDS OF THE STORM GODS".

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IMAGES

- IMAGES OF THE INDRA TEMPLE SHIBAMATA TAISHAKUTEN BY REBECCA BUGGE.
- ANE MAP FROM WIKIMEDIA COMMONS BY DBACHMANN AND CUSH, PUBLIC DOMAIN.
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