

Hawaii Horse and Rider; ‘200, 300 horses a wicked disease struck’

Stuart L. Harris, November 2011

A rebus¹ petroglyph from Kona on the big island of Hawaii forms a horse and rider, preceeded by two sets of concentric circles that represent numbers. The inscription in Old European concerns a terrible hailstorm that injured and infected people and horses. Injured regions erupted in boils, while two or three hundred horses caught in the hailstorm also became diseased.

Disease-bearing hail sounds somewhat like the plague of hail in Exodus that killed, maimed and infected men and livestock. Biblical hail had an additional component of fire that burned in the hail and along the ground, plus a violent wind to support hailstones up to a talent in weight (about 70 pounds).

Agriculturalists report serious crop infection immediately after a hailstorm, caused by latent bacteria and fungi spores that erupt from the soil to attack fresh wounds.

The horse and rider petroglyph poses a question for Hawaiian historians: who in Hawaii knew how to speak Finnish and write in Old European? Hawaiian may have borrowed some Finnish words, such as the goddess Pelle (clown or pello field) and her daughter Lakka (amber, lac). Horses would seem to be a modern, but perhaps not; the inscription has not been dated.

Translation

Old Eur: 200, 300 HE-VO Ä TA LY. HU-KA. RA LY URO AKA. MU SÄ VI LO KI.

Finnish: 200, 300 hevot häjy tauin lyöä. Hukka. Rae lyöä urohot akat. Muien säien vian loi kihot.

English: 200, 300 horses a wicked disease struck. A disaster. Hail lashed men and women. Others the storm injury formed boils.

Image and Transcription

Figure 1: Image of horse and rider petroglyph from Kona, Hawaii.



¹ A rebus arranges letters in a word or sentence to form a complementary picture. Each letter retains its original shape, but can be stretched or rotated slightly. The sequence should read normally, in this case, left to right, beginning at the top and ending at the bottom.

Figure 2: Transcription of horse and rider petroglyph from Kona, Hawaii.



Notes on Translation

200

300

HE-VO = *hevot* 'horses'; K14.282 'he sets out to fetch **the horse** (*hevon*)'

Ä < *häjy* 'wicked'; K26.722 'the **wicked** (*häjy*) man to examine it'

TA = *tauin* 'disease'; K16.178 "without **disease** (*tauin*) killing you"

LY = *lyöä* 'struck, lashed out'; K27.376 'then **lashed out** (*lyöä*) with a blow'

HU-KA = *hukka* 'a disaster'; K12.194 'disaster (*hukka*) for reckless Lemminkäinen'

RA = *rae* 'hail' from *raetta*; K14.318 "down came iron **hail** (*raetta*)"

LY = *lyöä* 'struck, lashed out'; K27.376 'then **lashed out** (*lyöä*) with a blow'

URO = *urohot* 'men'; K03.012 'some **men** (*urohot*) not understand'

AKA = *akat* 'women'; K24.071 "**The women** (*akat*) will wonder at that"

MU = *muien* 'others'; K25.503 'before **others** (*muien*) got up'

SÄ = *säien* 'storm'; K42.362 'raise a great and mighty **storm** (*säien*)'

VI = *vian* 'injury'; K09.475 'something fit to be put on **an injury** (*vian*)'

LO = *loi* 'formed'; K01.272 'there **she formed** (*loi*) places to seine for salmon'

KI = *kihot* 'boils, bubbles' from *kiehua* 'to boil'; K09.203 "Iron's tongue **is not boiling** (*kiehu*)"

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Details on Translation

200

300

HE-VO **horse**, horses, horse's

Ä harrow; äjän many, long, plenty; much, a lot; hää- wedding-; hän he, she; häjy wicked; old man

Ä-TÄ sound, voice; edge, fringe; what if; father

TA I have; again; or; wizardry, of wizards, in-of magic skill, with magic; forge, you forged, I will forge, forge (imp); tabulation, title of tablet; **disease(s)**; -without; -from; -woman; -spirit; find out; direction; with; I want, I with, you want; the will; here; -ta suffix to build verbs from nouns; this, this one, that, that one

TA-LY nothing

LY strike, lashed out, **smite**, pounds; joyous, joyful; short, for a short, with short
=====

HU shout, cry out, cried out; rinse out

HU-KA wolf (s), wolf's; righteous, pious; **disaster**

KA topple, fell, kill, laid low, drop dead; to topple; all, every; far, far away, far and wide; long (time), long lasting, a long time; two, in two, between two; grim looking; dipper (s); cattle; table beer; very; -having the quality of something; -neither; to pine for here; feeling; distress; griefs, regrets; of-from-into dreadful, horrible thing

KA-RA oats; tapering, curved
=====

RA **hailstones**; collar (s); willow (s), sallow, of willow; iron, of iron; money, of money; peace, of peace; strap (s), trace; have the heart to; bench(es), footstool, of a bench; border (s), edge, of a border

RA-LY nothing

LY **strike**, lashed out, smite, pounds; joyous, joyful; short, for a short, with short

URO man, of man, **men**, of men, person(s), fellow(s), male(s); course

A-KA time, period, season; quite, pretty; mistress, woman's, of-from a woman, **women**, woman, old woman, timid,
=====

MU to-for me; me, **my**, I; other, **others**, of the rest; appearance, figure, features; base (fellow); open up; but;

MU-KA along; bend; according to; fragile tree; a trick

KA topple, fell, kill, **laid low**, drop dead; to topple; all, every; far, far away, far and wide; long (time), long lasting, a long time; two, in two, between two; grim looking; dipper (s); cattle; table

beer; very; -having the quality of something; -neither; to pine for here; feeling; distress; griefs, regrets; of-from-into dreadful, horrible thing

KA-VI hoof(s); body

VI it-she-he-you-I carry, will carry, take, they take lead, bring, conduct, transport, speed; put on injury, on a blemish; rage, anger, angry, hard, maliciously; grudge, wrath, hostility; hard, fiercely; of a thicket, grove, copse; **five**, of five; whistle

VI-LO fleeces; slices

LO I-you-he-she-it **made**, created, formed, shaped, threw; salmon, of a salmon; block of stone, boulder (s); Louhi

LO-PU the end, **finish**; over

PU threshed; tree, of trees, treetops, **in-to the trees**; wood; mast, pole; fair, handsome, pure; mouth; to speak, I-you-he speak, I-you-he will speak, I-you-he spoke; to blow, I-you-he blow, I-you-he blew; speech, words; dress, gown, suit; half

PU-SE wooden; through the trees

SE it, that; she, he; stop, **-into**; its, that, they, this; his, him, her, he, of him; by so much or