

3 Finnish Names in the Iliad

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Summary of Finnish Names in the Iliad

A consequence of locating Troy in Finland is that many Homeric names were actually Finnish. The tables below translate into Finnish more than three score proper names in Book I of the Iliad.¹ For example, Iliad means 'High Desolate', a twist on Ilion meaning 'High Luck'.

Iliad and Odyssey derive from Finnish Originals

A consequence of locating Troy in Finland is that the body of oral history upon which Homer drew to compose the *Iliad* and *Odyssey* was in Finnish.

Frisian scholars carefully preserved these Finnish histories in the Netherlands at two academies in Middelburg on the island of Walcheren; one taught women, the other taught men.² The list of ships in Book 2 of the Odyssey may derive from a physical document, embellished by the poet with background information on each location.

Five hundred years after the events took place, Homer used them to create his Greek epics while retaining their original names as best he could.

According to Eman Wilkens, Homer was born near Middelburg on Walcheren Island in the Netherlands. He attended the local academy for bards at Middelburg, then called Walhallagara. He spoke Finnish, learned the new German language that evolved into Frisian, studied history, and learned how to write with a new alphabet instead of the old syllabary. Upon graduation, his education was the equivalent of a doctorate, an expert in just about everything.

Homer moved to Greece, where he mastered the language, though apparently some of his Greek was a little rough. He brought the new alphabet with him, one letter for each vowel and consonant, with words separated by spaces, and taught people how to write in their own language. Many Greek islands claim him, so he must have traveled from island to island, immensely popular, matchless orator, the greatest teacher of his time. He found that Greeks remembered their oral history but had forgotten where they originated, far to the north. Out of all the history he knew, he selected just a small slice to compose his two great epics. Into the adventures of Ulysses he wove an extended family that lived a thousand years earlier, the grandchildren of Gaia and Uranus, who created obstacles for the hero and light interludes to the carnage of war. In his mind, 500 years or 1500 years ago, they were just as real. As best he could, he kept the original names, modified to be spoken in Greek.

¹ If you need details of a particular name, contact me. Some of these etymologies are quite difficult.

² I am indebted to Iman Wilkens for figuring this out, a solution that solves in a stroke a raft of problems. It complements a concern of the Frisian governing council around 500 BC that their people were rapidly forgetting how to speak and write in the old language; if they did not establish a special school somewhere it would soon be lost. They never founded the school and the language was lost.

Special Suffixes -S and -OS

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Finnish suffixes followed certain conventions that Homer respected. Suffix -S had three different meanings dependent on the subject:

- s = 'clan home' from *suo* if a place
- s = 'clan descendant' from *suku* if a person
- s = 'Finn' from *suomalainen* if a Finnish person

Example:

Paris the person means 'Best clan descendant'

Paris the city means 'Best clan home'

Suffix -OS or -US meant 'metal', from *ahjs* 'metal'. Old Norse retained the original sound, spelled AS or AES. Used as a prefix, it referred to Aesir, a clan of smiths who lived in the hill fort of Asgard, as opposed to Vanir, a clan of sailors who lived on the coast in Vanheim. In Kalevala, when wooing the maiden of Pohjola, Väinämöinen went by sea, while the smith Ilmarinen went by land.

Example:

Aegeus comes from Äijeä ahjs meaning 'Great metal'.

Zeus comes from Sää ahjs meaning 'Storm metal'

In Old Norse, the original meaning of *ahjs* 'metal' has been lost. AS becomes 'gods' or 'hill', so that Asgard means 'hill fort'. The Norse assembly or Thing, modeled after the assembly of gods, is called Aesin, which derives from Asian meaning both 'thing' and 'assembly of As'.

Zeus might thus be interpreted as 'Storm god'.

Translation of Greek names into Finnish

In these translations, I have tried to remain faithful to Homer's original Greek.

Greeks

Greeks	Finnish	English
Achaion	Ha kaihon!	What a feeling!
Achilleus	Äkille ahjs	Unexpected into metal
Agamemnon	Ha kummem noian	What an extraordinary wizard
Aias	Aijas	Fence
Argeion	Arre keihon	Sign of the spear
Atreus	Häät ree ahjs	Wedding sleigh metal
Calchas	Kalkas	Strike clan descendant
Clytemnestra	Kyly temmee ne se tora	A bath we will make [for] all that fight
Danaon	Teen ahjon	I will build a forge
Eëtion	Ahys tieon	Metal knowledge
Eurybates	Peura vaates	Reindeer clothes Finn
Idomeneus	Hiito mene ahjs	Demon begone metal
Leto	Lehto	Grove
Menelaus	Mene lause	Begone speech
Myrmidon	Myyrä mieton	Sweet fellow
Nestor	Nesi tora	All your strife
Odysseus	Hötyssä ahjs	Flake from metal
Patroklos	Patti-rokko olo ahjs	Bump-pox state metal
Talthybius	Tallat-hyppi ahjs	Shoes-jump metal
Thestor	Tiesto ori	Road stallion
Ulysses	Uljas seis	Bold one, stop!

Achaion, **Argeion** and **Danaon** meant the same, but had different metrical footprints.

Aijas, 'Fence', refers to Kullervo's impregnable fence.

Clytemnestra, 'a bath we will make for all that fight', seems to be a vow she made to her supporters.

Eëtion meaning 'Metal Knowledge' is an epithet of a smith. **Eesti**, the name of Estonia, means 'Metal Way', possibly a reference to the home of Hades, the smith.

Idomeneus, son of Deucalion, descendant of Zeus, brought 80 ships to Troy, led his troops in battle in the front ranks, led the defense when most other heroes were injured, and briefly fought and repulsed Hector. Book 13 concentrates on his remarkable prowess in battle. Ennus means both omen and divine.

Patroklos, 'Bump-pox state metal', describes oxhide-shaped copper ingots shipped to Europe from America. A special process produced spongy copper to aid breaking up the ingot into smaller pieces.

Talthybius, 'shoes-jump metal', refers to horseshoe metal. Hepo 'horse' is close to hypi 'jump'.

Translation of Greek names into Finnish

Ulysses, ‘Bold one, stop!’ was named by his grandfather when he crawled onto his grandfather’s lap after dinner.

Gods

Gods	Finnish	English
Aegaeon	Äijä ehon	Plenty of harmony
Apollo	Ha palo	Question flame
Kronos	Kyy yrön ahjs	Serpent man’s metal
Hephaestos	Ei paista ahjs	Not shine metal
Hera	Herra	Mistress of the forest
Nereus	Neie-ree ahjs	Maiden-sleigh metal
Olympos	Ylohimpos	Home of warriors who conduct affairs of state
Pallas Athena	Päälläs Asiane	Top mistress of the clan assembly
Phoebos Apollo	Voi hevos Apollo	Able-horse Apollo
Poseidon	Po’säätöin	Warrior storm maker
Smintheus	Somin tee ahjs	Your fingers make metal
Thetis	Teettis	Maker descendant
Zeus	Sää ahjs	Storm metal

Apollo, ‘Question Flame’; HA is a question clitic that means ‘what? where? why? who? how?’

Poseidon; **Po** comes from PO of Poland, and before that, PO of Portugal, which in turn comes from *Poro* ‘tukkala’ meaning ‘Ashes-hair land’, a reference to a Mohawk hair-style used by head-hunting horsemen in battle, stiffened with a soapy paste made from ashes. The Fomorians of Ireland have the same kind of name.

Nereus was notorious for bedding women.

Olympos is complicated. YLOHIMO means ‘High-timbered hall of the Norn of the Past where the assembly meets to conduct affairs of state’. Norn of the Past was Urth, first wife of Odin, mother of Thor, mistress of the assembly, a vala who taught the maidens. Earth carries her name, she was that important. A governing assembly of men and women was called ‘Thing’ in Norse, Elohim in Hebrew. PO comes from Portugal, where it stood for warriors wearing a Mohawk. -S means clan-home. So Olympus means ‘Home of warriors who conduct affairs of state.’

Zeus, Storm metal, was the god of storms and weather.

Old Warriors

Old Warriors	Finnish	English
Aegeus	Äijeä ahjs	Great metal
Caeneus	Käyne ahjs	Weld metal
Dryas	Tuuri ahjs	Luck metal
Exadios	Yheksä ätti ahjs	Nine father metal
Pirithous	Piiri teho ahjs	Ring power metal
Polyphemos	Pöly vaimo ahjs	Dust woman metal
Theseus	Täysi ahjs	Full of metal

In Norse mythology, As ‘metal’ was the name of the clan living at Asgard, founded by Odin, regarded as deities. It comes from *ahjs* ‘metal’, from *ahjosta* ‘metal’. His brothers led the clan of Van meaning ‘water’.

Translation of Greek names into Finnish

Polyphemos, 'Dust Woman metal', might also be Pyöli vaimos 'Citadel woman descendant'. Citadel woman would be T-Urth, wife of Odin, mother of Thor.

Trojans

Trojans	Finnish	English
Trojan	Tyr ohjan	Tyre slave
Briareos	Pori arreos	Little reindeer omen
Briseus	Pirisi ahjs	Dropped metal
Briseis	Pirisi ihjs	Little dropped metal
Chryses	Kyyriitsi	Serpent magic
Hector	Hehku terä	Incandescent blade
Priam	Pori ammoi	Pori from times past
Tenes	Tehnes	Maker descendant

Briseus, 'Dropped metal', could be a meteorite. His daughter, Briseis, would be 'Little dropped metal'.

Trojan is difficult. Greek mythology says Prince Scamander brought by longboat one-third of the Cretan survivors to an unnamed town next to Hamaxitus. Seven hundred years earlier, Europa, first queen of Crete, came from Tyre, brought many companions with her, and supported Tyre as a trading partner. Crete suffered utter destruction circa 1446 BC, about the same time that Scamander arrived in the Baltic. In *Kalevala*, Scamander's people introduced the lyre, pan-pipe, four-heddle looms and a vertical grist mill, all common items in Crete. Lemminkainen's mother said that Trojans spoke a strange language, but her son said he could understand it, so it was a dialect of Finnish. Taking all of the above into account, I propose that Scamander traveled all the way from Mediterranean Crete with descendants of people from Tyre. Crete dominated Mediterranean shipping, and Troy soon challenged the Achaean fleets in the Baltic with much larger ships.

The capture of **Chryses** 'Serpent magic' was the first mistake Agammenon made at the beginning of the *Iliad*.

Argonauts

Argonauts	Finnish	English
Argos	Arka ahjs	Timid metal
Kentauros	Kenttä uros	Plain man
Peleus	Pelle ahjs	Clown metal

Argos 'Timid metal' could also be Arki ahjs 'Everyday metal'

Centaurs - Kentauros were Lapith horsemen who grazed their horses on grassy plains. Twice they fought Apollo after he took control of the Oracle of Python and blocked free access.

Peleus participated in the Caledonian boar hunt on Mount Pelion, where he was befriended by Chiron the Centaur, who later taught and raised his son Achilles.

Translation of Greek names into Finnish

Place Names

Cities	Finnish	English
Aithiopios	Äiti oppi ahjs	Mother learning metal
Ethiopia	Ehtiä oppia	Mature information
Cilla	Kyylä	Serpent land
Hypoplacian	Hepo Polakian	Horse of Poland
Ilion	Ylionni	High luck
Iliad	Yliautio	High desolate
Lemnos	Lemmen noiens	Love maidens' clan
Okeanos	Oo kehän ahjs	There is ring metal
Phthia	Piti ha'a	Kept pasture
Pylos	Pyölis	Citadel
Tenedos	Tehnyt ahjs	He made metal
Thebe	Tee pe'e	Make a family
Troijs	Tyr ohja	Tyre slave

Aithiopios and **Ethiopia** have slightly different meanings.

Cilla, 'Serpent land', may indicate the origin of the Minoan serpent goddess.

Hypoplacian, 'Horse of Poland', may be related to Hyppianmäki, a mountain at the center of the island of Lemnos, inhabited by horse-riding Amazon women.

Ilion, 'High luck', Homer changed to **Iliad**, 'High desolation'.

Lemnos, 'Love maiden's clan', retains its name on modern maps.

Okeanos, 'There is ring metal', indicates that copper and tin lie across the ocean.

Pyölis, 'Citadel', evolved into Polis, 'city'. Half a dozen villages carry the name Pyölis within ten kilometers of Troy in Finland.

Troijs, 'Tyre slave', is the name of a small village ten kilometers from the original Troijs.

You are invited to contact Stuart Harris about this or any other archeological topics at
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