

## **Abobada Warrior Stele: 'You toppled for us, wizard of our border ground'**

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Stuart L. Harris, October 2011

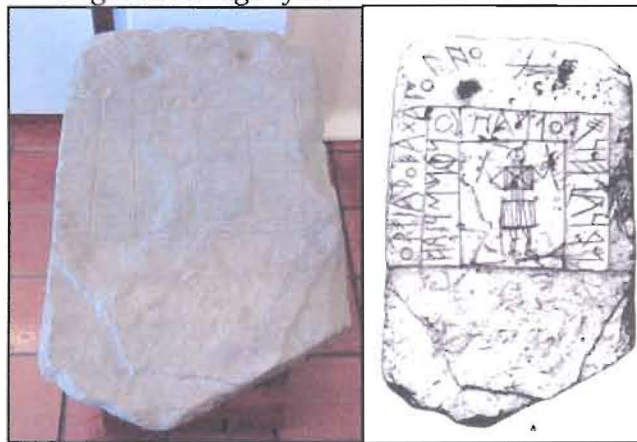
"You toppled for us, wizard of our border ground of so much war. You forged a thousand of us with magic skill, stars wizard with a short jaw, tough new lads."

The Abobada Warrior Stele<sup>1, 2</sup> depicts legendary head-hunter Iron Jaw<sup>3</sup> as he passes through a portal to enter the next world. Iron Jaw lived near Lisbon, when Phoenicians traded goods with the Mediterranean, before Rome, Carthage and Greece vied for power.<sup>4</sup> It was erected by his successor to honor his mystical leadership and to aid his passage.

In the Iberian language, Portugal<sup>5</sup> meant 'Ashes hair land', land of the Mohawk, patterned after the mane of a horse, stiffened with soapy paste made from ashes just before a warrior rode into battle. European armies copied the Mohawk on their plumed helmets. Poland<sup>6</sup> carries the PO name, as does Fomoria<sup>7</sup>, the earliest name of Ireland, and the river Po in Italy. But the head of Iron Jaw is bald, his Mohawk shorn.

"My bones bear little revenge for a wound, now that I have drunk mead from the skull of a luckless old chief. Iron Jaw wizard, at the top of a hill in the direction facing dawn's head, there shall you get peace. To safeguard your journey, I will inscribe a scepter of Ra the sun god in your right hand, and a crescent moon of the goddess in your left, which will also carry your bow and arrow. Armor will protect your chest, a pleated kilt your lower body, and greaves your shins. Around the portal to the next world I will inscribe magic words of protection, beginning with your favorite horse. At dawn I shall go by sleigh to the regions above the border of our dilapidated land. I will stop now."

*Figure 1: Image of Abobada Warrior stele.*



<sup>1</sup> Abobada mixes Iberian and Latin to make Apo pata meaning 'All Father'.

<sup>2</sup> The Abobada Warrior stele at Almodovar, near Lisbon, is displayed at Museu da Rainha d. Leonor, Beja.

<sup>3</sup> Raua leuan means 'Iron jaw', English Rowland.

<sup>4</sup> The most confident date for the inscription is 650/625 BC from the necropolis at Badajoz in Spain.

<sup>5</sup> Portugal comes from Poro 'tukkala meaning 'ashes-hair land'.

<sup>6</sup> Poland comes from Polonia meaning 'from ashes-hair country'.

<sup>7</sup> Fomoria comes from pomo riia'a meaning 'land of ashes-hair marriage'.

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### Translation

#### Iberian

1. KA ME, TA RA MA ME SE SO, NI SI NE TA TE.
2. TA TU TU ME TA TÄ TA LY SA
3. NO RA LE-PÄ MÄ TA KO PÄ SI JO-RA
4. KO RE MÄ ME NI MA PÄ LÄ RA ME RÄ MA
5. VÄ MÄ LU KO TU RA-NA KU ME JO PÄ Ä PÄ RA-KA
6. ME TÄ SA TU PÄ SO ME-LO U PO
7. ME HÄ MI

#### Finnish

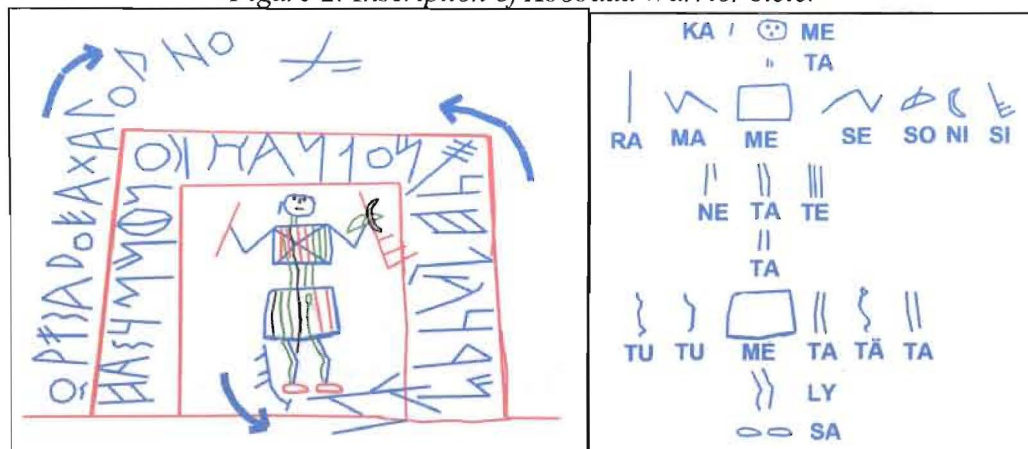
1. Kaaoit meiät, taian rajan maa meiän sen soan, niin sio ne taion teho.
2. Taoit tuhatta meiän taion, tähet taian lyhyen saajan.
3. Noian Raua leuan, päähän mäen tahohon koin pää, siehen jou'ut rauha.
4. Koin re'en mä mennä maahan päällä raja meiän rähjä maan.
5. Vähä mä luut kostohon raannan kun me'en join päähän äijönpää rakas.
6. Meiltä sait tuhat päät soan, mellot uuet poiat meiat.
7. Hää'än mi.

#### English

1. You toppled for us, wizard of our border ground of so much war, then bound them in magic enchantment.
2. You forged a thousand of us with magic skill, stars wizard with a short jaw.
3. Iron Jaw wizard, at the top of a hill in the direction of dawn's head, there shall you get peace.
4. At dawn on a sleigh I shall go to the regions above the border of our dilapidated land.
5. Small my bones to take revenge of a wound when I drank mead from the head of a luckless old chief.
6. From us you got a thousand heads in battle, tough new lads from us.
7. I will stop now.

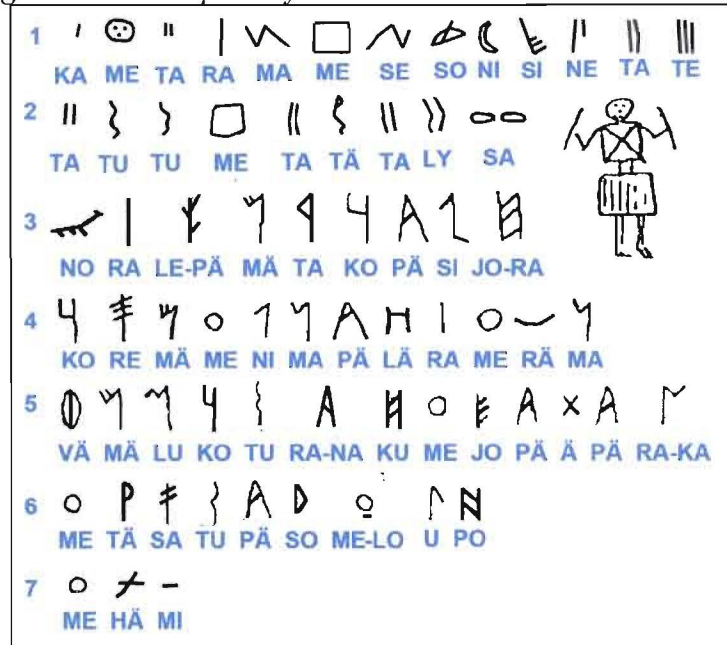
### Image and Transcription

Figure 2: Inscription of Abobada Warrior stele.



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Figure 3: Transcription of Abobada Warrior stele with 73 letters.



### Notes on Translation

Table 1: Iberian changes to second syllable vowel.

Iberian	A	E	I	O	U
Old European	A	O	A	U	O

1 =====

**KA** = *kaa'at* 'you toppled, felled'; K14.202 "**topple** (*kaa'a*) the fence over"

**ME** = *meiät* 'for us'; K30.375 "what track is leading **us** (*meiät*) on"

**TA** = *taian* 'wizard'; K02.194 "whoever broke off everlasting **wizardry** (*taian*)"

**RA** = *rajan* 'of the border'; K34.135 "**on the** vast **frontier** (*rajalla*) of Lapland"

**MA** = *maa* 'ground, on the ground'; K32.280 "pleasant to lie down **on the ground** (*maa*)"

**ME** = *meiän* 'of ours, with our'; K50.133 "What is the matter **with our** (*meiän*) Marjatta"

**SE** = *sen* 'of so much'; K 06.162 "**by so much** (*sen*) let the arrow go down"

**SO** = *soan* 'war, of war'; K31.025 'He waged **war** (*soan*) merely by gestures with his fingers'

**NI** = *niin* 'then'; K02.059 "**Then** (*niin*) he sees four girls"

**SI** = *sio* 'tie'; K04.167 "Now **tie** (*sio*) the silk ribbons on your face"

**NE** = *ne* 'them'; K04.163 "I brought **them** (*ne*) to the storehouse out there"

**TA** = *taion* 'in magic'; K12.134 "without competence **in magic** (*taion*) skill"

**TE** = *teho* 'enchantment', from *tenho*; K09.273 "**bewitched** (*tenhon*) steel!"

2 =====

**TA** = *taoit* 'you forged'; K15.199 "**you forged** (*taoit*) before, you forged yesterday"

**TU-TA** = *tuhatta* 'a thousand'; K41.090 'nearly **a thousand** (*tuhatta*) larks'

**ME** = *meiän* 'of us'; K30.386 'from the bodies **of us** (*meiän*), poor wretches'

**TA** = *taion* 'with magic skill'; K12.134 'without competence **in magic skill** (*taion*)'

**TÄ** = *tähet* 'stars'; K24.357 '**the stars** (*tähet*) in heaven twinkle'

**TA** = *taian* 'wizard'; K02.194 "whoever broke off everlasting **wizardry** (*taian*)"



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LY = *lyhyen* 'with short'; K46.401 '**with short** (*lyhyt*) legs, with bandy legs'

SA = *saajan* 'jaw'; K22.489 'by the breadwinner's **jaw** (*saajan*)'

3 =====

NO = *noian* 'wizard'; K02.215 'for a **wizard** (*noian*) to make his arrows'

RA = *raua* 'iron'; K03.205 "the origin of **iron** (*rauan*) is from rust"

LE = *leuan* 'jaw'; K22.489 'by the breadwinner's **jaw** (*leuan*)'

PÄ = *päähän* 'at the top'; K12.358 "**to the top** (*päähän*) of your sister's stairs"

MÄ = *mäen* 'of a hill'; K16.021 'He went up **one hill** (*mäen*), goes up a second'

TA = *tahohon* 'in the direction' from *tahdo*; K23.261 "then **find out** (*taho*) from the mistress"

KO = *koin* 'of dawn'; K17.478 'before the **Dawn** (*koi*) God's dawning'

PÄ = *pää* 'head'; K22.457 "A horse has a better **head** (*pää*)"

SI = *siehen* 'there'; K01.264 '*there* (*siehen*) she arranged headlands'

JO = *jou'ut* 'you will get'; K26.407 "If **you get** (*jou'ut*) to the drinking party"

RA = *rauha* 'peace'; K32.489 "Grant **peace** (*rauha*) to the cattle"

4 =====

KO = *koin* 'at dawn'; K17.478 'before the **Dawn** (*koi*) God's dawning'

RE = *re'en* 'on a sleigh'; K18.424 "new-fallen snow **for the sled** (*re'en*) to speed along on"

MÄ = *mä* 'I will'; K26.137 "Indeed I will (*mä*) devise a means for that"

ME-NI < ME-NÄ = *mennä* 'to go'; K12.353 "to go (*mennä*), loathsome person, to your home"

MA = *maahan* 'to the regions'; K17.410 '**to Lapland's vast regions** (*maahan*)'

PÄ-LÄ = *päällä* 'above'; K46.075 'while the tall evergreens are swaying **above** (*päällä*)'

RA = *raja* 'the border'; K34.135 '**on the vast frontier** (*rajalla*) of Lapland'

ME = *meidän* 'our, of our'; K25.450 "why do **our** (*meidän*) children not sing"

RÄ = *rähjä* 'dilapidated'; not in K.

MA = *maan* 'land, of the land'; K14.253 "Lord of the wilderness, master **of the land**"

5 =====

VÄ = *vähä* 'small'; K03.123 "A man's youth is a **small** (*vähä*) matter"

MÄ = *mä* 'my'; K07.039 "If I build **my** (*mä*) house in the wind"

LU = *luut* 'bones'; K15.308 'fitted bones (*luut*) to bones'

KO-TU < KO-TO = *kostohon* 'to take our revenge' from *kostohonpa*; K30.366 "**to take our revenge** (*kostohon*), luckless ones"

RA-NA = *raannan* 'of a wound'; K08.224 'a healer **of a wound** (*raannan*) inflicted by iron'

KU = *kun* 'when'; K02.217 '**When** (*kun*) the oak had been brought down'

ME = *me'en* 'mead'; K27.182 '**the dark mead** (*me'en*) to his own good luck'

JO = *join* 'I drank'; K 27.181 '**He drank** (*joi*) the beer to his own good health'

PÄ = *päähän* 'at the head'; K10.054 'at the head (*päähän*) of the newly cleared Osmo field'

Ä-PÄ = *äijönpää* 'of an old chief'

Ä = *äijön* 'of an old man'; K32.002 'blue-stockinged son **of an old man** (*äijön*)'

-PÄ = *-pää* 'chief'; common suffix meaning 'main, primary, chief, crown, end'

RA-KA = *raukan* 'luckless'; K44.124 "beneath **luckless** (*raukan*) me"

6 =====

ME-TÄ = *meiltä* 'from us'; K24.484 "lured the berry away **from us** (*meiltä*)"

SA = *sait* 'you got'; K11.382 "**You got** (*sait*) a good thing, you met a good thing"

TU = *tuhat* 'a thousand'; K 07.122 '**a thousand** (*tuhat*) lashes from the wind'

PÄ = *päät* 'heads'; K06.050 '**the heads** (*päät*) he makes of resinous wood'

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**SO** = *soan* 'in battle'; K30.047 "to help Ahti **in battle** (*soan*)"

**ME-LO** = *mellot* 'tough'; K 17.090 bit the tip **of tough** (*mellon*) iron'

**U** = *uuet* 'new'; K11.395 'set up **new** (*uuet*) walls'

**PO** = *poiat* 'lads'; K49.169 'Then **the lads** (*poiat*) of North Farm say'

**ME** = *meiat* 'from us'; K30.375 "what track is leading **us** (*meiat*) on"

7 =====

**HÄ** = *hää 'än* 'I will stop'; K11.087 "**I will** certainly **stop** (*hää 'än*) the women's laughter"

**MI** = *mi* 'now'; K07.217 "**Now** (*mi*) I am downcast"

You are invited to contact Stuart Harris about these or any other inscriptions at  
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