

Homeric Greeks spoke Finnish

Discovery of the Finnish language in Homer

I met Felice Vinci for the first time in 2002, outside our small hotel across the Tiber from St. Peter's, to present him a book of Greek cities in Finland that he had predicted in Homer in the Baltic. We had much to talk about, and both needed to evaluate the other. My family elected to leave us alone for lunch. Felice led the way through twisting streets to a corner restaurant with outdoor tables shaded by large colorful umbrellas.

"Mi trattoria favorita! Across the street was an amphitheatre bigger than il Coliseo. I play fùtbol there with the owner; his wife is the chef, molto bene."

Felice's athletic frame was topped with curly dark hair turning silver at the temples; a beard and moustache framed an easy laugh and mischievous smile. He was famous for leaping ahead to conclusions, then backfilling with data. How would he react?

Figure 1: Velice Vinci and Stuart Harris in Rome, 2002.



"So Troy was near Troija, just like I promised!"

"Ten kilometers. It covers a hill, a kilometer on each side, ringed with huge foundation stones."

"Foundation stones! E importantissimo! A first."

"Mount Ida looms in the east, covered with springs, and Simois river flows to the west through fields of barley. All around are cities from Homer."

"Do local Finns remember any history, Stu?"

"The farmers keep relics they find for good luck."

"Has anyone found metal?"

"Three gilded swords from Denmark, the finest quality, buried in the seabed near Troy."

"Swords of Peloponesian kings. Perhaps a longboat foundered in a storm. I wonder whose."

Figure 2: Enhanced aerial photograph of Troy in Finland.

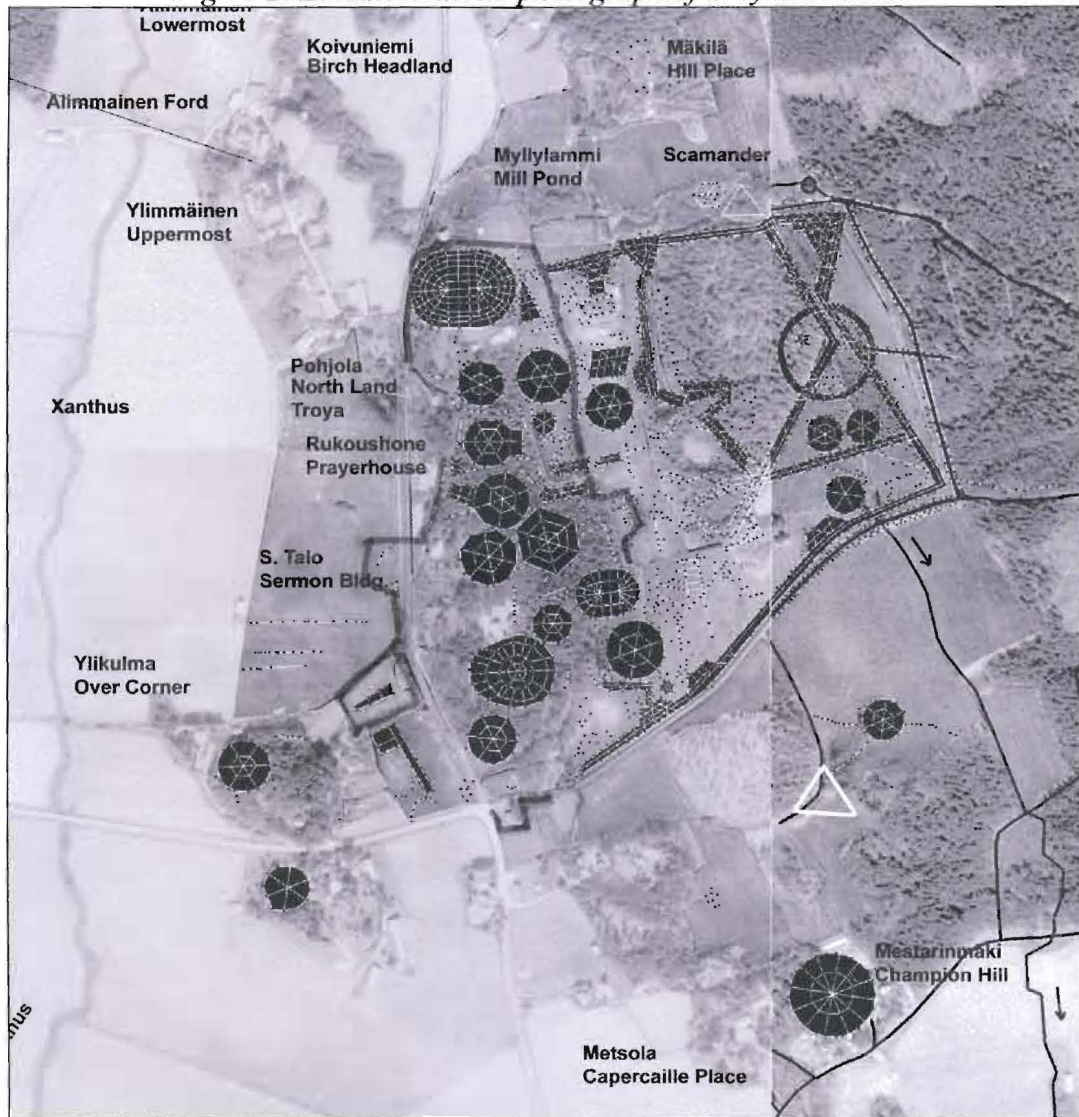


Figure 3: Troy as it might have looked in Finland, with palisades and guard towers.

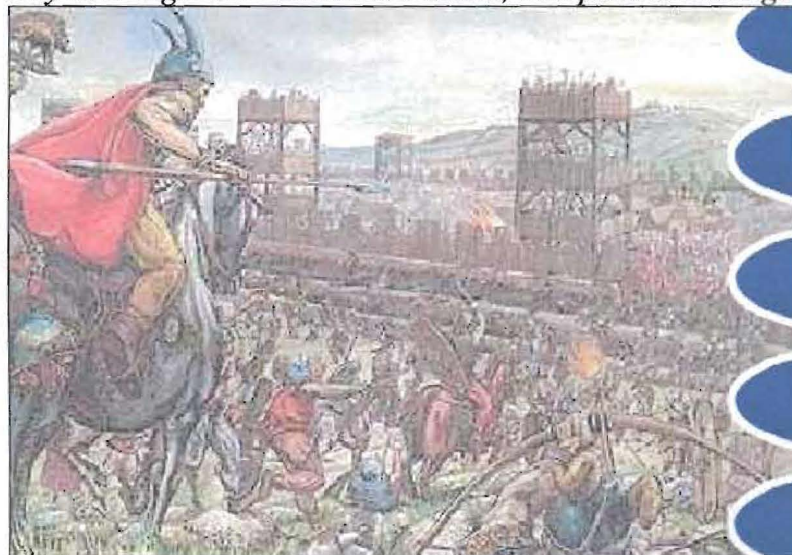


Figure 4: Bronze sword with curly birch handle, 1500 BC, like those found in Finland.



Felice thumbed through my book of Trojan cities, complete with aerial photographs. “I recommend shrimp scampi.” We ordered and talked shop. “You have to publish this material, Stu, it’s important.”

“There are problems, Felice. I need some time.”

“Don’t wait too long; every day counts.”

“For one thing, I must learn how to write.”

“I’m sure you can learn. Look at me, a physicist.”

“There’s another problem. Your theory is based on Greek names in the Baltic.”

“Of course, Greek cities just where Homer said. And you found even more. So what’s your problem?”

“Do you think Trojans might have spoken Finnish?”

“Scusi? Greek names abound in Finland. Why would Trojans speak anything but Greek?”

“I emailed the head of mapping in Finland, telling him about all these Greek names. Perhaps he could add them to his maps, publish double names like they do with Swedish.”

“Not possible,” he answered. “Swedish, Russian, even German, but not Greek; Finland has no Greek names.”

“No Greek names in Finland?” repeated Felice.

“That’s what the head of mapping told me. I was stunned. My ears turned red. I fumed for a week.”

“But you found Troia!”

“Exactly. One of us was wrong. But he seemed a real scholar, I wanted him on my side.”

Felice spoke to the waiter who had brought our scampi. Out came more wine and rustic bread with olive oil. He took a photograph of us together at the trattoria, beneath an umbrella that shaded us from the warm spring sun.

“So how did you approach the problem?” asked Felice.

“One morning I spoke to myself in a mirror, What if he is right and I am wrong? Think it through. I started with Väinämöinen who composed Kalevala. Surely he spoke Finnish, his work defines the Finnish language. His brother Ilmarinen became Master of Pohjola by marrying the daughter of the Mistress of Pohjola. I also knew that Ilmarinen was the same person as Dardanus, King of Troy, who married into the title.”

“Yes, you told me how Kalevala ties closely to Greek mythology.”

“I visited their memorials, twin burial mounds on the island of Lemnos south of Troy, marked on the map with their Finnish names. Ilmarinen and Väinämöinen never needed translators, so when Kalevala was composed, Trojans spoke Finnish.”

Figure 5. Location of the cairns of Ilmarinen the smith and Väinämöinen the bard.



“So by using Kalevala, you establish that at the time of Dardanus, Trojans spoke Finnish.”

“Exactly. Next, using Greek history, the succeeding rulers of Troy all came from the same two families, so their language remained Finnish down to Priam and Hector.”

“I begin to see why you asked me the question, Stu.”

“Finally, during the war, both sides of the battle traded insults with full comprehension, making long speeches to each other. Therefore, both sides, Trojan and Achaean, spoke Finnish.”

There, I’d planted the bomb. We ordered dessert. Flan and cappuccino for me, Felice had cheese I think. The owner stopped by and talked about fútbol. Felice seemed to be enjoying himself, but his mind was racing through his life’s work. No Greek in Finland meant no Greek anywhere.

“Un momento, Stu. If both sides spoke Finnish, then so did every city in the List of Ships.”

“It would seem so.”

“Even the gods. Even Homer, five hundred years later. What happened to Indo European?”

“What happened to Indo European? A good question, Felice. I re-read the introduction to Prose Edda. Snorri Sturluson said that a huge group migrated from twelve kingdoms in Turkey to Scandinavia, pushed out by either Greeks or Romans expanding into the Black Sea. These migrants adopted names from the Old Norse pantheon, like Odin. They took over Germany,

France, Denmark, Norway and Sweden. He noted that England stayed separate and spoke a strange language, unrelated to Norse."

Our waiter came around and I ordered another cappuccino, they were the best! Our conversation went elsewhere, his approaching retirement, our families. Then Felice returned to the foundation of his thesis.

"Look, Stu, we both found Greek names."

"They're not Greek."

"But how can Greek be not Greek?"

"They're Finnish."

"E sciocco!"

"My feelings exactly. But how to test for Finnish? Our friend, Emilio Spedicato, suggested that Homer might have preserved proper names in their original Finnish. He had found just such preservation in the Torah and in Sumerian tablets. So I read Robert Graves to see how he translated Homeric names into Greek, and the very first one, Achilles, has to be wrong."

"Achilles, the only son of Thetis and Peleus. What does he call him?"

"Lipless."

"Lipless? I agree, Thetis would never call her son Lipless, to be teased by little boys. Who else?"

"Ulysses."

"I know Ulysses, something like 'thigh wound', gored while hunting a wild boar."

"Yes, but Ulysses was a baby when his grandfather named him, before the boar hunt."

"So you think Greeks twisted his name to fit a later episode. Who else?"

"Hector; Graves says Hector means 'prop'."

"And in Finnish?" "Hector means 'Incandescent Blade'."

How about Ilion? "High Luck."

And Iliad? "High Desolate Citadel."

Mama mia! Troia? "North, short for Northland."

Achilles? "Open Praise."

Zeus? "Wolf."

Agamemnon? "Our Old-woman Wizard."

Apollo? "Question Flame."

Achaeon? "Eternal Woman Clan-home."

"How many names did you research, Stu?"

"The entire first book, Felice. Every one makes sense in Finnish."

By the time Felice read the list of names from the Iliad, lunch was over. Our waiter didn't seem to mind, maybe a big tip. "I know every name like a father, their parents and deeds. How wonderfully they chose names, a skill completely lost today." He put the list of names inside my book of Trojan cities and laughed. "Everyone is right. Yes - there are no Greek names in Finland,

and yes - Finland is filled with names that Finns have long forgotten but Greeks remember in their myths.”

“Felice, I think these names strengthen your argument, not weaken it. Not only did Hector live in Finland, but he spoke Finnish.”

“Historians call these people Balkans, Stu. They occupied the coast, down to North Africa, and Sicilia and the heel of Italia. Inland lived other people, farmers, who could never break through to the coast. These Balkans cremated their dead, and over the ashes of their leaders piled stones or erected megalithic stone chambers.”

“I researched megaliths, Felice. They end in 1259 BC, the coldest year ever for Irish oaks.”

“Si, a catastrophe drove them south, taking with them their city names. Any other lists?”

“The first fourteen names of Ireland are Finnish. Most European rivers and mountain ranges are Finnish. Cities that end in -S like Paris, Athens and Themes are Finnish.”

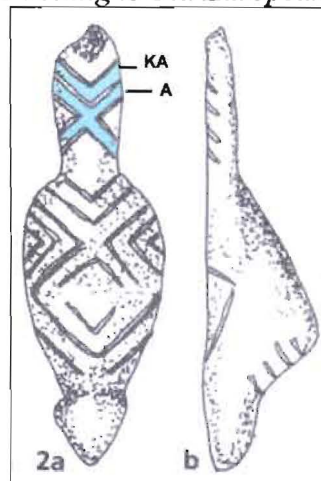
We got up from the table. I tried to pay but Felice laughed, his treat in Rome. “Help me out, Stu. What does ‘Greek’ mean?”

“In Finnish, Greek means ‘Clan of Earth Mother Akka, Full Woman, Bird Woman, Bee Woman, totem of fertility, Grantor of Pleas’. She goes back to the ice ages, the fat goddess figure, found across Europe and Asia.”

“Then Finnish might be that old, Stu. I remember a figurine from mammoth hunters of the Ukraine with writing on it. If that writing spells Akka, build a linguistic road from Troy to the Ice Age.”

He’d done it, just like the legends said! Take one piece of new information, extend the concept back for countless generations, then backfill the missing links.

Figure 6: Ivory Bird Goddess Akka from Ukraine with text A-KA spelling Akka 'Old Woman' on her neck, 18,000 BC. The writing is Old European, the language is Finnish.



Summary of names from Book I of the Iliad

To be sure a word is Finnish and not Indo European, I refer to its usage in *Kalevala*, which is free of Indo European except for part of Rune 50.

Suffix -s has three different meanings dependant on the subject:

‘clan home’ from *suo* if a place

‘clan descendant’ from *suku* if a person

‘Finn’ from *suomalainen* if a Finnish person

Example:

Paris the person means ‘Best clan descendant’

Paris the city means ‘Best clan home’

Achaians

Table 1: Achean derivation from Finnish originals.

Achaians	Finnish	English
Achaians	Akka iän-ikuinens	Eternal Woman clan descendant
Achilles	Auki ylistys	Open praise
Agamemnon	Akkamme noian	Our Old-woman wizard
Aias	[Kullervon] Aijas	[Kullervo's] fence
Atreus	Aaterehus	Ideal fodder clan descendant
Calchas	Kalkas	Strike clan descendant
Clytemnestra	Kylliki menestyä	Abundant success
Danaan	Täynnä a'an	Full Mistress, Akka
Eetion	Ahys tieon	Metal Knowledge
Eurybates	Eheysuri päteäs	Perfect person clan competent descendant
Idomeneus	Ahto imehnos	Human Ahto clan descendant
Leto	Liitto	Union
Menelaus	Menelaue	Go speech
Myrmidon	Merimies täynnä	Seamen of the Full [Mistress]
Nestor	Ne's terä	Fourth blade
Odysseus	Otti itse uieassa	He took himself swimming
Patroclus	Päärohke lois	Bravehead created lineage
Talthybius	Talli tieä piossa	Stable knowledge in his grip
Thestor	Tee soittor	Maker of music
Ulysses	Uljas seis	Bold-brave-noble one, stop!

Achaians and **Danaans** mean ‘Eternal Woman Clan’ and ‘Full Mistress Clan’, both epithets of the goddess modelled as a fat figurine, who originated in the ice age.

Achilles means ‘Open Praise’. Even before he was born, it was foretold that he would achieve higher renown than his father.

Ulysses was named ‘Bold-brave-noble one, stop!’ when he crawled up into his grandfather’s lap after dinner. His second name **Odysseus** means ‘He took himself swimming’, an epithet for his two long swims to safety after capsizing.

Agamemnon ‘Our Old-woman Wizard’ is an epithet of a powerful shaman.

Clytemnestra was named ‘Abundant Success’ as a child, long before she became Queen of Crete.

Eetion meaning 'Metal Knowledge' is an epithet of a smith. **Eesti**, the name of Estonia, means 'Metal Road'; it may refer to the trail from the Baltic to the Black Sea that carried copper, tin and gold.

Gods

Gods	Finnish	English
Aegaeon	Äijä ehon	Plenty of harmony-integrity-perfection'
Apollo	Ha palo	Question flame
Briareus	Bure ärjyi uusi	Bure spurted anew
Cronus	Karhu noians	Bear Wizard descendant
Hephaestus	Ehe' paistois	Perfect shining clan descendant
Hera	Herra	Mistress of the Forest
Nereus	Neien reen use'in	Maiden sleigh often
Olympos	Ylohim poians	Ylohim descendants' home
Pallas Athena	Päällas Asiane	Top mistress of the clan assembly
Phoebus Apollo	Voi hevos Apollo	Able-horse Apollo
Poseidon	Po'säätoin	Descendant of Storm Maker
Smintheus	Suomen teeuusi	Finnish New Maker
Thetis	Teettis	Maker descendant
Zeus	Susi	Wolf

Old Warriors

Old Warriors	Finnish	English
Aegeus	Äijä uiva suomalainen	Long floating Finn
Caeneus	Käy niin suomalainen	Go as a Finn
Dryas	Tyras	Tyr of As
Exadius	Eka teho	First Power
Pirithous	Piiri tosi	Ring True
Polyphemus	Poylveemos	Descendant of noble Ve mother clan
Theseus	Tee uusi Eheys	Make new Harmony-integrity-perfection-unity

Trojans

Trojans	Finnish	English
Trojan	Pohjan	of North
Briseis	Puurisus	Treebranch descendant
Chryses	Kyyriitsi	Serpent Magic
Hector	Hehku terä	Incandescent Blade
Priam	Pori ammoi	Pori from times past
Tenes	Tehnes	Maker descendant

Argonauts

Argonauts	Finnish	English
Argos	Auerkuus	Fog-moon clan-home
Centaurs	Kentaurus	Quill-tablet clan-home

Peleus	Veljyesi	Your brother
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Place Names

Cities	Finnish	English
Aithiopios	Äijä tie piots	Faraway Feast Family
Cilla	Kyylä	Serpentland
Hypoplacian Thebe	Hyppiä lakien tyvi	Hyppiä Summit's Base
Ilion	Ylionni	High Luck
Iliad	Ylipyöli autio	High Desolate Citadel
Lemnos	Lemmen noiensuo	Love Maidens' Home
Okeanos	Oikea anos	Proper Request Descendant
Phthia	Pisa	Tall
Pylos	Pyhan llos	Sacred Joy Clan-home
Tenedos	Tehnetois	Maker brought clan-home
Troia	Pohja	North