

# WALAM OLUM (MAALAN AARUM)

## COMPARISONS of LANGUAGES

### WORD (PHRASE) BY WORD (PHRASE) DECIPHERMENT

(All references are to Sherwin's eight volumes of the *Viking and the Red Man*)

|                  |                            |                        |
|------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|
| Original English | Those from the north       |                        |
| Recorded sounds  | Ni hilla      pe win       |                        |
| Algonquin words  | Nahooch      bi win        | v. 7 p. 52 & v. 4 91 & |
| Old Norse        | nidhr hniiga by wineu      | v. 7 p. 108            |
| Norse/English    | Be dropping down from snow |                        |

|                  |                          |               |
|------------------|--------------------------|---------------|
| Original English | being free, without care |               |
| Recorded sounds  | kom   e   lendam         |               |
| Algonquin words  | kimi   al   lumskaan     | v. 8 p. 37 1* |
| Old Norse        | geymi a(f) lymskaada     |               |
| Norse/English    | discreetly stealing off  |               |

1\* The Recorder had written "lendam" endings. Here the word ending had a different sound, and meaning, but he apparently spelled the ending the same way as before.

The "free, without care" probably came from the Historian who understood that slipping away would enable a person to be "free, without care."

The "discreetly stealing off" may describe a process where people walked away from the camp ground near the boats with the full knowledge of everyone in camp that they should load the boat and sail when the time was right.

|                  |                       |  |
|------------------|-----------------------|--|
| Original English | From the land of snow |  |
| Recorded sounds  | lowaniwi              | (English order changed to match Algonquin) |
| Algonquin words  | lowaney               | v. 6 p. 58 northerly                       |
| Old Norse        | raa-andi              |  |
| Norse/English    | freezing              |  |

|                  |                   |                 |
|------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Original English | ?missing?         |                 |
| Recorded sounds  | wemitten          |                 |
| Algonquin words  | wematin           | v. 1, p. 233 2* |
| Old Norse        | vedh-madhir       |                 |
| Norse/English    | plighted brothers | 3*              |

2\* "Plighted brothers may refer to the sons of any Norse man. There were other men, servants and slaves. Those men may have discreetly slipped away too. But they probably did not help write the Maalan Aarum.

3\* According to Sherwin, "plighted brothers" could include up to fifth cousins. That status may have included most of the Greenland men.

|                  |                |            |
|------------------|----------------|------------|
| Original English | went forth     |            |
| Recorded sounds  | chihillen      |            |
| Algonquin words  | chilhillen     | v. 1, p.38 |
| Old Norse        | Skilja vera    |            |
| Norse/English    | were separated |            |

|                  |                         |             |
|------------------|-------------------------|-------------|
| Original English | In different directions |             |
| Recorded sounds  | win aken                |             |
| Algonquin words  | wem aken                | v. 4 p. 159 |
| Old Norse        | hveim akran             |             |
| Norse/English    | (through) all the land  |             |

### SUMMARY OF DECIPHERMENT

#### WALAM OLUM

Nihillapewin  
komelendam  
Iowanwi  
wemitten  
chihillen  
winaken

|||  
V

Those from the north  
being free, without care  
from the land of snow  
?Missing?  
went forth  
In different directions

#### ALGONQUIN

Nahooch bi win  
kimi allumskaan  
Iowaney  
wematin  
chilhillen  
wemaken

|||  
V

Be dropping down from snow  
discreetly stealing off  
(from) freezing  
plighted brothers  
were separated  
(through) all the land

|||  
V

After moving down from  
the snowy land and  
discreetly leaving,  
the cousins  
separated  
through out all the land

#### OLD NORSE

nidhr hniiga by wineu  
geymi a(f) lymskaada  
raa-andi  
vedh-madhir  
Skilja vera  
hveim akran

|||  
V

Be dropping down from snow  
discreetly stealing off  
(from) freezing  
plighted brothers  
were separated  
(through) all the land

|||  
V

After moving down from  
the snowy land and  
discreetly leaving,  
the cousins  
separated  
through out all the land

### General Comments

The original English and the paraphrase from the Old Norse are similar except that the Old Norse version leaves a sense that they came to stay.

The episode in verses 8 through 11 appears to be an one occurrence, but there were probably repeated episodes from 1050 to 1300. This verse about distant cousins discreetly leaving to move through out all the land implies something that happened again and again over a long time.