

# 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	all the cabin fires of that land	
Recorded sounds	wemi ako	1*
Algonquin words	wemi akoores	v. 4 p. 156 & v. 1 p. 8
Old Norse	hveim uugarrus	
Norse/English	all gentle (common people)	2*

1\* Somehow somebody changed the sense of the original spoken words. The Algonquin/ON words mean “all the gentle (people).”

Both the Recorder and the Editor may have recognized the common Algonquin word for fire, “tend,” and may have misunderstood “ako.” “Tend,” comes later in the verse but may have caused them to think of “cabin fires.” Also they may have thought that “ako” was “aki” meaning, “land.” (See third set of recorded sounds below.)

2\* The Old Norse literal meaning for “uugarrus” is “not coarse.” Sherwin suggests an idiom meaning, “gentle,” but the Algonquin use of the word appears to mean “common people.”

Original English	were disquieted	
Recorded sounds	yagawa n	
Algonquin words	yakawa mew	v. 3 p. 151
Old Norse	raekja medn	
Norse/English	have regard for (about)	

Original English	(cabin fires?)	1*
Recorded sounds	tend ki	
Algonquin words	tiindey aki	v. 8 p. 109
Old Norse	tandri akr	
Norse/English	(their) fire(d) ground (land)	3*

3\* The original sounds are best deciphered as words meaning “fire(d) area (lands).” The “fire(d) land” words may have been the source of the “cabin fires” that the Recorder or the Editor wrote in the first phrase of this verse.

Charles Mann, in his book 1491, cites several sources who reported that the Indians (Algonquin/Old Norse) burned the grasslands of the Great Plains to improve the grass. Hardy broad leaf plants will usually intrude into an over grazed pasture. The broad leaves shade the grass and are poor fodder, (When I was a farm boy. before herbicides, I often mowed our pasture at the best time to kill the broad leaf plants.) The Norse in Greenland may have fired their overgrazed grass lands in an attempt to kill the broad leaf plants.

The difference between burning grass land in the Great Plains and in Greenland is spring moisture. The rainfall on the Great Plains peaks in April, May, and June. In Greenland the months of April, May, and June have the least moisture.

The logical time to burn to kill broad leaf plants is in the fall when the pasture plants have dried. But then the winter snow, the most likely source of Greenland moisture, might have been blown past by the winds and was not caught by grass which was not there. The low rainfall in the spring may have slowed the growth of the grass. So the Greenlanders attempt to control the broad leaf plants by burning may have created an ecological disaster resulting in the near death of the grass lands.

Original English	(missing?)	
Recorded sounds	lakk	awe len am
Algonquin words	naka	lawé lendam
Old Norse		knekkja lav lyndi
Norse/English	(they) abandon (it with) low disposition	

4\* “n” morphing to “l” is common in Algonquin dialects.

5\* Sherwin’s definition of “knekkja” included “abandonment” or “leave.” These words seem to mean that the common people had to abandon their burnt out land, which they did with discouragement.

Some modern historians have made hypotheses that the Norse animal culture would have destroyed the Greenland grass lands. These words appear to support their hypotheses.

Centuries later in luscious America, the Historian, the Recorder, and the Editor may not have perceived an ecological disaster as the cause for people to leave the land.

Original English	and all said to their priest	
Recorded sounds	nako	powa
Algonquin words	enkooda	powwow
Old Norse		hneigjanda paave
Norse/English	agreeing (the) priest (said)	

Original English	“let us	
Recorded sounds	wemi	owen luen
Algonquin words	wemi	owena rena
Old Norse		hveim hvii-einn hrein
Norse/English	all which (who are) decent	

6\* The sense of these words appear to be that the priest heard the people’s troubles and agreed with them to go to a different place.

Original English	go"	
Recorded sounds	At a m	
Algonquin words	at a pin	v. 4 p. 17
Old Norse	enadr aa bua	7*
Norse/English	remain in a different (place)	6*

7\* The morphing process slipped in an “n” to “a” but also an “a” to “n” then “n” to “m” along with “b” to “p.” The dropped “p” may have happened at the recording session.

### SUMMARY OF DECIPHERMENT

#### WALAM OLUM

wemiako  
yagawan  
tendki  
lakkawelenam  
nakopowa  
wemiowenluen

atam

|  
|  
|  
|  
|  
|  
|  
V

all the cabin fires of that land  
were disquieted  
(cabin fires?)  
(missing?)  
and all said  
to their priest  
“let us go”

#### ALGONQUIN

wemi akoores  
yakawa mew  
tiindey aki  
naka lawélendam  
enkooda powwow  
wemi owena rena

at a pin

#### ←ORIGINAL ENGLISH PARAPHRASE -- >

#### OLD NORSE

hveim uugarrus  
raekja medn  
tandri akr  
knekjja lav lyndi  
hneigjanda paave  
hveim hvii-einn hrein

enadr aa bua

|  
V

all gentle (common people)  
have regard for (about)  
(their) fire(d) ground (land)  
(they) abandon (it with) low  
disposition.

Agreeing (the) priest (said)  
all which (who are) decent  
remain in a different (place)

V

The discouraged people  
were worried about  
worn out land  
they had to abandon.  
The priest agreed,  
"We decent people  
should go somewhere else."