

Japanese Shinto Creation Names in Finnish

Stuart Harris, December 2011

Summary

Japanese Shinto creation names translate into Finnish. For example:

Izanagi – first male, from *isä naki* meaning ‘father seer’

Izanami – first female, from *isä naine* meaning ‘father wife’

Amatsu-kami – the five gods of heaven, from *Armahat su ’u kai miehe ’en* meaning ‘Beloved clan among all men’

Ameno-minaka-nusino-kami – The superior god-like being who sits enthroned in the middle of heaven, from *Aie meno mi naia kai nuo sija noiat kai miehi ’in* meaning ‘Plan a ceremony now to marry all those bind wizards to all men’

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‘The sandy clans binds thus a wizard who cooks the earth’

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'Fortunate knoll line'
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'Fetch them high ground, now fade away all'
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'Beloved blade clan descendant who courts all men'
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Ama-no-osi-ho-mimino-mikoto
'Beloved wizard, portioned out by my own daughter-in-law who cooked the earth'
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Introduction

In 2008, Dr. Lee Collins suggested that I examine ancient Japanese texts for possible links to Finnish, because the two languages have similar consonants, vowels and word construction. On my first attempt, only two words looked familiar.

Izanagi – first male, from *isä naki* meaning 'father seer'

Izanami – first female, from *isä naine* meaning 'father wife'

Three years later, I chanced upon an article written in 1854 about Shinto creation deities, which upon examination made sense in Finnish, thus validating the suggestion of Collins. Attached are translations of the earliest Shinto deities, in historical sequence. Each name has:

Japanese name spelled in Latin letters
Finnish rendering of the Japanese name
English translation of the Finnish name
English meaning of the Japanese deity
Details of the Finnish translation.

Notes on Translation

The list of Shinto deities comes from the 1854 edition of the Illustrated Magazine of Art, a scholarly journal designed like an encyclopedia: short, densely packed narrative on each subject.¹ Shinto deity names in turn come from much older inscriptions.

¹ Japanese Mythology: the Sinto Creed or Primitive Religion of Japan, 1854, The Illustrated Magazine of Art, V3, No. 15, pp 145-147, author not given.

Originally the names were written in Old European, a Consonant-Vowel syllabary suited to Finnish. In written form, Old European: omits the last consonant of a syllable, replaces double letters with single letters, compresses diphthongs into the first vowel, ignores H within a word, and lacks punctuation between words or syllables. The last vowel or consonant of a word can be borrowed for the next word. Japanese syllabary generally followed the same format, so that missing letters have to be inserted to obtain the original Finnish, and words have to be decoded syllable by syllable. Unlike Old European, some Japanese letters include the final consonant of a syllable, such as -N.

Over time, some consonants became softer: B replaced V, D replaced T, and Z replaced S and G replaced K, W replaced V, F replaced P. This damage is easily repaired.

In addition, Shinto dialects could change the second vowel of two-syllable words. The most common change swapped O with U. A good example is the plain of high heaven, Tako-mano-halo, which comes from Takku-mannu-halu.

To ensure antiquity of the vocabulary, every word occurs in Kalevala, composed between 1430 and 1420 BC, with more than 18,000 different words.

Sino-kami translates as *sija noiat kai miehi* 'in meaning 'the bind wizard among all men'. This person may be the giant smith Mimir in Norse mythology, who binds everyone to him.

Mikoto or **makoto** translates as *maakieto* meaning 'earth-cooked'. The 1854 article rendered this phrase as 'who cooked the earth', who made the earth solid from a shapeless mass, and I have kept that meaning.

Ama-no translates as *Armaha noain* meaning 'beloved wizard', in a setting that portions out beloved wizard to participants. It sounds like a drink, possibly saki or soma. The Minoans of Crete called wine 'wizard drink', and labeled pithoi for storing wine with this name.

Tako-mano-halo

'Tangle earth desire'

Takku mannu halu. The plain of high heaven. Before the world was created, there was an infinite space of confused mass of water, air and earth, swaying to and fro like the yolk of an egg mixed up with the white. In each word, the second vowel U has changed to O.

TAKO < TAKU = takku 'tangle'

MANO < MANU = mannu 'earth'

HALO < HALU = halu 'desire'

Ameno-minaka-nusino-kami

'Plan a ceremony now to marry all those bind wizards to all men'

Aie meno mi naia kai nuo sija noiat kai miehi' in. The superior god-like being who sits enthroned in the middle of heaven.

A MENO < aie meno 'plan a ceremony'

MI NA KA < mi naia kai 'now to marry all'

NU < nuo 'those'

SI NO < sija noiat 'bind wizards'

KA MI < kai miehi' in 'to all men'

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Taka-mi-musu-bino-kami

‘Hearth where the other clan brings a wizard to all men’

Takka mi muu su’u vie noian kai miehi’in. The highly elevated creating god

TAKA < takka ‘fireplace, hearth’

MI < mi ‘where’

MU SU < muu su’u ‘other clan’

BI NO < vie noian ‘brings a wizard’

KA MI < kai miehi’in ‘to all men’

Kamu-mi-musu-bino-kami

‘Chamber where the other clan brings a wizard to all men’

Kamio mi muu suu vie noian kai miehi’in. The spiritually elevated creating god.

KAMU < KAMO < kamio ‘chamber, cell, small room’

MI < mi ‘where’

MU SU < muu su’u ‘other clan’

BI NO < vie noen ‘brings a wizard’

KA MI < kai miehi’in ‘to all men’

A-si

‘Meadow bind’

Aho sio. First reed, Erianthus Japonicus, used to bind things.

A < aho meadow

SI < sio bind, tie

Umasi-asi-kabi-hiko-dsino-kami

‘New land to bind with reeds the eternal body, you are the bind wizard among all men’

Uuhen maa sioa asit kavio iku, oot sija noian kai miehe’en. The noble earth, god of the beautiful reed-bud

U MA SI < uuhen maa sioa ‘new land to bind’

ASI < asit ‘with reeds’

KABI < kavio ‘body’

HIKO < HIKU < iku ‘eternal’

[O]D < oot ‘you are’

SI NO < sija noian ‘the bind wizard’

KA MI < kai miehi’in ‘to all men’

Ameno-soko-talsino-kami

‘Plan a ceremony to herald the fate of the bind wizard to all men’

Aie meno soia kohtalo sia noen kai miehi’in. Architect of the vault of heaven.

A MENO < aie meno ‘plan a ceremony’

SO < soia ‘to ring out, herald’

KOTALO < kohtalo ‘fate’

SI NO < sia noen ‘of the bind wizard’

KA MI < kai miehi’in ‘to all men’

Amatsu-kami

‘Beloved clan among all men’

Armahat su’u kai miehe’en. The five gods of heaven.

AMAT SU < armahat su’u ‘beloved clan’

KA MI < kai miehe’en ‘among all men’

Kuni-soko-talsino-mikoto

‘Moon Dream heralds the fate of the bind wizard who cooks the earth’

Kuu unia soia kohtalo sia noen maakieto. Creator of firm land. He reigned over the yet unfinished globe for more than 100,000 millions of years.

KU NI < kuu unia ‘moon dream’

SO < soia ‘to ring out, herald’

KOTALO < kohtalo ‘fate’

SI NO < sia noen ‘of the bind wizard’

MIKOTO < maakieto ‘earth cooked’ (irregular)

Kuni-sa-toutsino-mikoto

‘Moon Dream brings the true bind wizard who cooks the earth’

Kuu uni saa toet sia noen maakieto. Second creator of firm land, reigned for 100,000 million years.

KU NI < kuu unia ‘moon dream’

SA < saa ‘brings’

TOUT toet ‘true’

SI NO sia noen ‘bind wizard’

MIKOTO < maakieto ‘earth-cooked’

Toyo-kumu-suno-mikoto

‘He brought Night Moon from the other clan wizard who cooks the earth’

Toi yō kuu muun su’u noian maakieto. God of the richly overflowing marshes, who reigned 100,000 million years.

TO YO < toi yō ‘he brought night’

KU MU < kuu muun ‘moon from other’

SU NO < su’u noian ‘clan wizard’

MIKOTO < maakieto ‘earth-cooked’

Wu-hidi-nino-mikoto

‘Under a sandy stream, the loveliest wizard who cooks the earth’

Vuon hieta ihanin noian maakieto. The god who cooks the muddy earth.

WU < vuon ‘under the stream’

HIDI < HITA < ‘hieta ‘sandy’

NI NO < ihanin noian ‘the loveliest wizard’

MIKOTO < maakieto ‘earth-cooked’

Su-hidsi-nino-makoto

‘The sandy clans binds thus a wizard who cooks the earth’

Su’u hieta sio niin noian maakeito. The goddess who cooks the sandy earth.

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SU < su'u 'clan'

HID SI < hieta sio 'sandy binds'

NI NO < niin noian 'thus a wizard'

MAKOTO < maakeito 'earth-cooked'

Oo-to-tsino-mikoto

'I am the true second who cooks the earth'

Oo toen toisena maakeito. Second god who cooks the muddy earth.

OO < oo 'I am'

TO < toen 'true, truth'

TOSINO < TOSENO < toisena 'second'

MIKOTO < maakieto 'earth-cooked'

Oo-to-beno-mikoto

'I am the true precious thing who cooks the earth'

Oo toen vehnä maakeito. Second goddess who cooks the sandy earth.

OO < oo 'I am'

TO < toen 'true'

BENO < VENÄ < vehnä 'precious thing'

MIKOTO < maakieto 'earth-cooked'

Omo-taruno-mikoto

'I am the other magic song who cooks the earth'

Oo muu tai'a runo maakeito. Third god who cooks the muddy earth.

O MO < oo muu 'I am other'

TA RUNO < tai'a runo 'magic song'

MIKOTO < maakieto 'earth-cooked'

Kasiko-neno-mikoto

'Hand of dawn maiden who cooks the earth'

Käsi koin neinnä maakeito. Third goddess who cooks the sandy earth.

KASI KO < käsi koin 'hand of dawn'

NENO < NENÄ < neinnä 'girl, maiden'

MIKOTO < maakieto 'earth-cooked'

Izana-gino-mikoto

'Master eye who cooks the earth'

Isännä kyynö maakeito. Fourth god who cooks the muddy earth. The last of the seven dynasties of the gods of heaven. Creator of Japan. Also spelled Izanagi no mikoto.

IZANA < isännä 'master'

GINO < kyynö 'eye'

MIKOTO < maakieto 'earth-cooked'

Izana-mino-mikoto

'Mistress death who cooks the earth'

Isännä meno maakeito. Fourth goddess who cooks the sandy earth.

IZANA < isännä 'mistress'

MINO < meno 'death' (irregular change)

MIKOTO < maakieto 'earth-cooked'

Kuni-soko-talsina-mikoto

'As long as there is a bold moon here who cooks the earth'

Kunis oo kuu utala siinä maakeito. The heavens where the seven dynasties reigned.

KUNIS < kunis 'as long as'

O KO < oo kuu 'there is a moon'

TAL SINA < utala siinä 'bold here' (borrows leading U)

MIKOTO < maakieto 'earth-cooked'

Ono-koro-sima

'Fortunate knoll line'

Onni koro siima. The island that flowed together of itself, ie., Japan.

ONO < ONI < onni 'lucky, fortunate' (irregular change)

KORO < koro 'knoll'

SIMA < siima 'line'

Hani-yama-himeno-kami

'Fetch them high ground, now fade away all'

Hae niin ylämaa himmene kai mi. Goddess who covered the hills with fruitful earth.

HA NI < hae nnin 'fetch them'

YAMA < ylämaa 'high ground'

HIMENO < HIMENE < himmene 'fade away' (irregular, could be some other word)

KA MI < kai mi 'all now'

Ama-terasu-or-kami

'Beloved blade clan descendant who courts all men'

Armahat terä suo riiaa kai miehen. The great spirit that lights the heavens, or Ten-sioo-dai-zin; eldest daughter of Iza-na-gino-mikoto. Chosen by her parents as their successor in their earthly kingdom, over which she reigned in conjunction with her brother, Tsuku-yo-mino-mikoto, the god-like moon that looks through the night.

AMAT < armahat 'beloved'

TERA SUO < terä suo 'blade clan-descendant'

RI < riiaa 'she courts'

KA MI < kai miehe'en 'all men'

Ten-sioo-dai-zin

'I made bind magic of the heart'

Tein si'oo ta'a syän. Eldest daughter of Iza-na-gino-mikoto, the great spirit that lights the heavens, also called Ama-terasu-or-kami.

TEN < tein 'I made'

SIOO < si'oo 'bind'

DAI < tai'a 'magic'

ZIN < syän 'of the heart'

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Tsuku-yo-mino-mikoto

'Great moon night of my own wizard who cooked the earth'

Iso kuu yō omin noian maakieto. The god-like moon that looks through the night, son of Iza-nagino-mikoto, brother of Ama-terasu-or-kami

TSU KU < iso kuu 'great moon'

YO < yō 'night'

OMI NO < omin noian 'of my own wizard'

MIKOTO < maakieto 'earth-cooked'

Ama-no-osi-ho-mimino-mikoto

'Beloved wizard, portioned out by my own daughter-in-law who cooked the earth'

Armaha noian osin omin miniä maakieto. Nephew of Ten-sioo-dai-zin.

AMA < armaha 'beloved'

NO < noian 'wizard'

OSI < osin 'portioned out'

HOMI < omin 'by my own'

MINO < MINÄ < miniä 'daughter-in-law'

MIKOTO < maakieto 'earth-cooked'

Hiko-hobo-de-mino-mikoto

'Sands hurry to make a daughter-in-law who cooked the earth'

Hieko hoppu tehä miniä maakieto. Son of Nini-gino-mikoto.

HIKO < hieko 'sands'

HOBO < HOPU < hoppu 'hurry'

DE < tehä 'to make'

MINO < MINÄ < miniä 'daughter-in-law'

MIKOTO < maakieto 'earth-cooked'

Wu-kaya-fuki-awasesuno-mikoto

'Under a stream walks swiftly the cold spring wind clan wizard who cooked the earth'

Vuon käyā puikki ahavaise su'u noian maakieto. Son of Hiko-hobo-de-mino-mikoto, the last of the five earthly gods.

WU < vuon 'under a stream'

KAYA < käyā 'walks'

FUKI < puikki 'swiftly' (F changes to P)

AWASE < ahavaise 'the cold spring wind'

SU NO < su'u noian 'clan wizard'

MIKOTO < maakieto 'earth-cooked'

Sin-mu-ten-woo

'For you others, I will make ointment'

Sini muien teen voie. Son of Wu-kaya-fuki-awasesuno-mikoto by a mortal wife.

SIN < sini 'for you'

MU < muien 'others'

TEN < teen 'I will make'

WOO < voie 'ointment'

Japanese Shinto Creation Names in Finnish

You are invited to contact Stuart Harris about this or any other inscriptions at
PO Box 60281, Palo Alto, CA, 94306; Stuart.Harris -at- sbcglobal.net; 650-888-1859