

# Black Eagle of Navarre: a translation

Stuart Harris, April 2013, Andorra

A black eagle has symbolized Navarre for millennia, a remembrance of a giant champion with black hair named Lord Eagle. In an age of chaos, when marauders overran the hills of Navarra in Spain, he came from afar to save them from oblivion by building an army of a thousand iron hands to defeat the bandits. At the same time he expanded farming to augment the raising of sheep and cattle, possibly by introducing a metal-tipped plow to till the rocky soil. Upon his death, the grateful people erected an immense menhir inscribed with his accomplishments, and dressed him in a new sheepskin coat. This menhir now dominates the interior garden of the Ethnographic Museum Oteiza Baztan in the village of Elizondo, not far from Mount Soalar where the menhir was erected. Its numerous inscriptions are translated in a separate paper entitled “Lord Eagle of Navarre”.<sup>1</sup>

An image of Black Eagle dates to 824 AD, upon the foundation of the Kingdom of Navarre by Iñigo Arista. Sancho III of Navarre, who consolidated all the territories in France and Spain with Basque culture, used the same image as his seal, as did his descendant King Sancho VII, shown below. Basque nationalists continue to use it. The kingdom remained independent until conquered in 1512 by Ferdinand, husband of Isabella. To enter Navarre, he used a ruse to allow his 10,000 man army free passage through the rugged mountains toward France.

*Figure 1 The seal of King Sancho VII of Navarre was a black eagle with three white bars and strange-looking talons. Modern representations add a yellow background. Source: Wikipedia.*



Basques<sup>2</sup> call it *Arrano beltza*.

The first word *Arrano* resembles the name of the giant champion from around 1100 BC, whose name *Aarne Herra* means ‘Eagle Lord’ in Finnish.

---

<sup>1</sup> Many thanks to Paula Galafena Iriarte, a Basque native and mayor of Oiategi, who guided me through twisting back streets of Elizondo amid drenching rain to reach the Oteiza Baztan Museum, then persuaded the lovely custodian to keep it open long enough for me to closely examine the menhir. Between the two women, they suggested I also research the Black Eagle, whose origin was lost in antiquity.

<sup>2</sup> Romans called these people Vascones, from Finnish Pääskönes meaning ‘Not-get-together clan’.

The second word *beltza* resembles *vaelsi* meaning ‘wandering’, a description of how Aarne Herra wandered into Navarre from afar.

Black was the color of his hair, just as Frost Giants had hair the color of frost.

The image of Black Eagle has attributes of a rebus. Each part of the eagle has an equivalent letter in Old European.<sup>3</sup> The inscription complains that the knowledge of Black Eagle had been suppressed by persons unknown, possibly Romans. *Ukko* meaning ‘Old Man’ is an epithet of Zeus in Finnish. In this case it applies to a man with the stature of a god. Black means his hair was black.

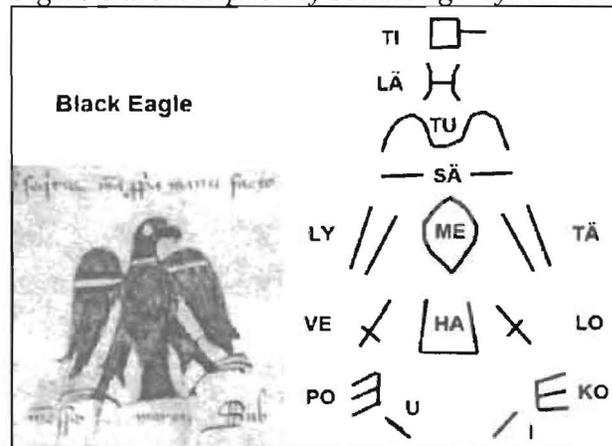
**Translation**

Old Eur: TI LÄ TU SÄ-LY ME-TÄ. VE HA, LO PO Ä U-KO.

Finnish: Tieon lähe tuoa säilyi meiltä. Vei ha’n, loi poiat Ukkon ihat.

English: The knowledge he set out to produce was kept from us. He brought pasture, he created lovely sons of the Old Man.

Figure 2 Transcription of Black Eagle of Navarre.



**Notes on Black Eagle translation**

TI < *tieon* ‘knowledge’, the first word, comprises the head of the eagle.

LÄ < *lähe* ‘he set out’; the white horizontal bar is needed to make the letter.

TU < *tuoa* ‘to produce’; have to imagine the connector through the eagle body.

SÄ-LY < *säilyi* ‘was kept’; novel way to write SÄ instead of two small circles.

ME-TÄ < *meiltä* ‘from us’; ‘by us’ would be just ME.

VE < *vei* ‘he brought’; ‘cleared’ would be a better word but has the wrong shape.

HA < *ha’an* ‘pasture’ for sheep, the source of their wealth, still is today.

LO < *loi* ‘he created’; points the opposite direction from VE, so must be LO.

PO < *poiat* ‘sons’; singular *poian* ‘son’ might not necessitate this lament.

U-KO < *Ukkon* ‘of the Old Man’, i.e. Zeus, Odin in Finland

I < *ihat* ‘lovely’

For a discussion of this translation, please contact Stuart Harris at [stuhar@onlymyemail.com](mailto:stuhar@onlymyemail.com), or visit the website [www.migration-diffusion.info](http://www.migration-diffusion.info). The same website, administered by Christine Pellech in Vienna, hosts a companion piece ‘Lord Eagle of Navarre’, and offers tools to decipher Old European and Iberian.

<sup>3</sup> How to read Old European can be found on Christine Pellech’s website [www.migration-diffusion.info](http://www.migration-diffusion.info) under the author Stuart Harris.