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ON THE LYDIAN WORD FOR 'KITE'

Abstract: It is suggested that the Lydian appellative for 'kite, *Milvus milvus* L.', attested in the Hesychian glossary as βαθυρρηγάλη (recte: βαθυρρηπάλη [bat^hyripali]), derives from Hittite bird name *pattarpalhiš* (orig. '[bird] having broad wings').

The Lydian term for 'kite, *Milvus milvus* L.' is attested in the Hesychian glossary, which was composed in VI cent. A.D. It contains, however, not only many Greek (especially dialectal) words, but also numerous glosses taken from some different languages of the ancient world, including Lydian.¹ Among them there is a Lydian word denoting 'kite'²:

βαθυρρηγάλη · ἰκτίνοσ, ὑπὸ Λυδῶν.

Roberto Gusmani³ quotes this gloss in the different form βαθύρρη · γαλιῆ, ἰκτίνοσ, ὑπὸ Λυδῶν (cod. βαθυρρηγάλη). Here the original text of the *codex Marcianus* is corrected after a nineteenth-century edition of the Hesychian glossary by M. Schmidt.⁴ This correction ignores the fact that Gk. γαλιῆ denotes 'weasel, marten' or a similar animal of the weasel family, also 'a small fish',⁵ whereas Gk. ἰκτίνοσ means 'kite', including two kinds, namely the Common Kite (*Milvus regalis* Briss.) and the Black Kite (*Milvus ater* Gm.),⁶ or 'a kind of wolf'. In other words, after accepting Schmidt's and Gusmani's version, the semantics of the Lydian gloss becomes both unclear and ambiguous⁷.

¹ See R. Gusmani, *Lydisches Wörterbuch*, Heidelberg: Winter 1964, pp. 271–278.

² K. Latte (ed.), *Hesychii Alexandrini Lexicon*, Hauniae 1953, p. 306.

³ Gusmani 1964, p. 272.

⁴ M. Schmidt (ed.), *Hesychii Alexandrini Lexicon*, Ienae 1858, p. 352.

⁵ Liddel, Scott, *Greek-English Lexicon*, Oxford 1996, p. 336.

⁶ D. W. Thompson, *A Glossary of Greek Birds*, Hildesheim: Olms (reprint of 1st edition, Oxford 1936), 1966, p. 119.

⁷ The correction would be perhaps acceptable, if we could suggest the emendation ἰκτίς (or dial. ἰκτίς, acc. pl. ἰκτίδας) 'yellow-breasted marten' or

It seems likely that the Lydian term in question is well preserved. Lyd. βαθυρρηγάλη may be a compound formation, containing as many as two lexical elements. The former one Βαθυρρ- represents, according to my opinion, a straightforward reflex of the Hittite *pattar* (n.) ‘wing’ (< Proto-Anatolian [henceforth: PA] **patr*, cf. OInd. *patram* n. ‘wing’, Gk. πτέρων n. ‘wing’ and so on). This correspondence seems quite regular, as the initial Anat. **p* yields Lyd. *b-*, e.g. PA. **pi-* ‘to give’ > Lyd. *bi(d)-* ‘id.’; Hitt. *pir* ‘house’ > Lyd. *bira* ‘id.’ etc.⁸ Greek -θ- appears here as an equivalent of Lyd. -t- (< Hitt. -tt- < PA. **t*), whereas Greek -υρρ- (= Hitt. -ar) represents a primitive liquid sonant (PA. **r*).

If the identification of the first element of the Lydian compound is correctly established, as it seems to be, then we must ask whether the Lydian gloss βαθυρρηγάλη is related to Hittite *pattar-palhiš* c. (*i*-stem) ‘an oracle bird / eine Orakelvogel’⁹ or not. The Hittite bird name denotes a relative big bird which is characterized by the “broad wings” (Friedrich¹⁰ explains it as ‘Breitflügel’, see Hitt. *pattar* n. ‘wing’ and *palhiš* adj. ‘broad’). Also Ignacy Ryszard Danka gives the same explanation of the Hittite word, stressing that both the elements of the compound demonstrate a clear Indo-European etymology.¹¹

The resemblance between the Lydian bird name and the Hittite one is striking, but the second parts are not identical (see Graeco-Lydian -γαλη vs. Hittite -palhi-). There are, however, some similarities. The Lydian -al- (= Greek -αλ-) exactly corresponds to Hitt. -alh-. The laryngeal reflex disappears regularly in Lydian. As regards the fate of the laryngeals in Lydian, H. Craig Melchert¹² emphasizes the following opinion:

“There is no trace of either PA **/H/* or **/h/* in Lydian. I know of no examples (it is very unlikely that *afara/i-* means ‘bill of sale’

‘wild ferret’ (an African and Spanish animal, called also γαλη άγρία) against of ικτινος ‘kite’. The semantics of γαλη and ικτις (ικτις) is well compatible. Thus the emendation βαθυρρηγάλη, ικτινος, υπό Λυδών is a possibility, which was not taken into account by modern researchers. In my opinion, the emendation is unnecessary and superfluous, as Lyd. βαθυρρηγάλη may be easily explained as a lexical ingredient of Anatolian (and Indo-European) origin.

⁸ H. C. Melchert, *Anatolian Historical Phonology*, Amsterdam, Atlanta: Rodopi 1994, p. 330, 356.

⁹ J. Friedrich, *Kurzgefaßtes hethitisches Wörterbuch*, Heidelberg: Winter 1991, p. 166.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*

¹¹ I. R. Danka, *Stanowisko języków anatolijskich w rodzinie indoeuropejskiej i ich wzajemne związki* [The Position of the Anatolian Languages in the Indo-European Family and Their Mutual Connections], Łódź: the Łódź University Press 1983, p. 170.

¹² Melchert 1994, p. 361.

or the like and reflects PA **hop-*, contra Gusmani 1964, p. 52). However, since the stronger PA **/H/* is lost everywhere in Lydian, we would expect the same for the weaker **/h/*”.

The correspondence between Hitt. *-i-* and Gk. *-η* may be easily explained, if we accept the possibility that Gk. *η* should be read as [i], representing the so called itacism. In this case, Greek *η* renders Lydian [i] and PA **i*. The fact that the Proto-Anatolian high vowel **i* is generally stable in Lydian¹³ is noteworthy.

The only one important difference is seen in Gk. *-γ-* and Hitt. *-p-*. The standard reflexes of PA **p* are Lydian [b] and [f], not [g]. I believe, however, that the problem is not of phonological nature, but rather of paleographic one. The letter gamma (Γ) in the codex Marcianus might appear against the letter pi (Π), especially in the case when the letter pi was originally written with the “short” right foot (Ι). This is why I would like to suggest the following correction of the Lydian gloss in question:

βαθυρρηγάλη (recte: βαθυρρηπάλη) · ἰκτῖνος, ὑπὸ Λυδῶν.

Taking into account the suggested itacism I believe that the most probable reading of the Lydian gloss for ‘kite’ would be [*bat^hyripali*]. It is clear now that it must be related to Hitt. *pattarpalhiš* ‘an oracle bird’.

The suggested here interpretation of the Lydian word for ‘kite’, βαθυρρηπάλη [*bat^hyripali*], allows us to two following conclusions:

1. Lydian βαθυρρηγάλη (recte: βαθυρρηπάλη) ‘kite, Milvus milvus L.’ may be securely treated as a straightforward reflex of Hittite *pattarpalhiš* ‘an oracle bird’ (literally ‘a broad-wing bird’).

2. The Lydian gloss in question strongly suggests that the Hittite bird name *pattarpalhiš* denoted nothing other than ‘kite, Milvus’. In fact, kite is a relatively big bird of prey, belonging to the hawk family, thus the Anatolian Benennungsmotiv for kite, based on an adjective that means ‘having broad wings’ (see Hitt. *pattar* n. ‘wing’ and *palhiš* adj. ‘broad’) is plausible.

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¹³ Melchert 1994, p. 365.

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