

## Re: Magdalenian words and compounds 2006/7

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Magdalenian words and compounds 2006-8  
Part 102

Magdalenian BIR and English bear (6/6)

LAD for hill and LAS for mountain pose a problem. These words disappeared. My only evidence for LAS is AD LAS Atlas Atlantis, hypothetical ancient name of Eurasia, land along the very long mountain barrier from the Cantabrian Mountains in northern Spain to the Himalayas in Asia. (English land German Land Spanish llano 'plain' may perhaps come from LAN as lateral association to LAD and LAS, meaning much as land between and along hills and mountains.) In Switzerland we have a magnificent mountain group around the Aletsch, mountain and glacier, the latter a world heritage site under the protection of the Unesco. Names in the region are Lötsch- and Lütsch, possible derivatives of LAD and LAS, while Aletsch may be another derivative of AD LAS. The name of the Valais south of the Aletsch means valley, dale, from DAL, inverse of LAD. In the Valais we have the villages of Lax and Laden. 'Las' in the Upper Valais means water flowing down the slopes, akin to auslassen 'let flow out'. If water was granted by the gods and goddesses residing on hills and mountains we would have a reason why LAD and LAS became taboo, yet these words would have become English let German lassen. The early farmers began clearing the plains, forests survived on hills and mountain slopes. In Slavic languages les means forest, and forests are/were the home of bears that had been worshipped as mountain deities ... The compound GO) LAS or GOL LAS (gol with a clicking l) may account for glacier meaning much as edible mountain made of stone that can be licked, or melted and drunk

or used for cooking. From GOL LAS we get to glass, a material resembling ice. Ice Age hunters lived in a world of glaciers, while our modern metropolises are dominated by shining facades of glass. The beautiful new opera house in Helsinki looks like an artificial iceberg ...

Back to fur. Most furs are brown, but some have several colors, wherefrom Latin varius English various vary varied, and German Farbe 'color'. Even the brown bear *Ursus arctus* has more than one shade of color, the back is silvery white, and the paws are often dark, almost black. I insist on bear as the furry one, provider of the best fur, thick, longhaired, soft and warm.

(end of part 6, the end)

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Magdalenian words and compounds 2006–8  
Part 101

Magdalenian BIR and English bear (5/6)

Old Indic *rksa* 'bear' may combine ARC and RAG. The former is present in Greek *arktos* and Latin *ursus*, the latter in words for bear in several Indian languages. RAG means the line of head and back of an animal, the first line drawn by cave painters according to Leroi-Gourhan, strongly evocative of the whole animal. RAG has many derivatives, among them Latin *rex* 'king', German *Recht* 'law', *ragen* 'loom, tower', *Rücken* 'back', and ancient Greek *rachis* 'back, mountain ridge'. The German word for mountain ridge is *Bergrücken*, literally the back of a mountain. The inverse of RAG is GAR, meaning fissures and crevices in rock, wherefrom animals emerge and wherein they disappear, both in European cave art and in the rock art of southern Africa. Life emerging from rock seems to have been a very ancient idea about the origin of life, and it has a modern scientific equivalent in Vernadsky's (?) dictum of life being the metamorphosis of rock ... German *Busen* means cleavage but has become a word for the female breasts. In like manner GAR became Old Church Slavonic *gore* 'mountain, Albanian *gur* 'rock', Avestan *gairi* 'mountain', Sanskrit *giri* 'mountain.

(end of part 5, to be continued)

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Magdalenian words and compounds 2006–8  
Part 100

Magdalenian BIR and English bear (4/6)

'Bear' comes from PIE \*bher- that has many meanings. All of them can be related to fur and especially bears: \*bher- 'brown' — most furs are brown // \*bher- 'weave twine' — the fur of a sheep is longhaired as the one of a bear // \*bher- 'seethe, bubble; roast' — cooking the meat of a skinned animal // \*bher- 'strike (through), split, cut' — one has to kill an animal in order to get its fur and meat // \*bher- 'carry' — explained above // \*bher- '+- cure with spells and/or herbs' — curing a patient using spells and warming bear skins with rubbed in fat and medical herbs // \*bhére(o)- 'bear (a child)' — explained above // \*bherg- 'growl, bark' — sounds made by a bear // \*bherg- 'keep, protect' — explained above, carrying a baby in a pouch made of fur, well protected, consider also that a bark barque German Barke (verb embark) protects people from the water on which they swim // \*bherg- 'high, hill' — a bear standing up is tall, reaching high, and the shape of a bear, magnified by fear, could have been seen in shapes of hills and mountains, wherefrom German Berg 'mountain'. (PIE roots according to Mallory and Adams 2006)

(end of part 4, to be continued)

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Magdalenian words and compounds 2006–8  
Part 99

Magdalenian BIR and English bear (3/6)

Bears had to die so that humans could live. A painting in the cave Les Trois Frères shows a bear covered with dots, blood spurting out of the mouth and the body. The dots are wounds applied with lances and spears, but as ideograms they also represent Magdalenian SAI for life, existence – life for the hunters of the Ice Age who utterly depended on fur. In autumn a bear eats up to 150,000 berries German Beeren. Dutch brombeer 'growling bear' is practically the same as German Brombeere 'brambler or black berry'. So there are three possibilities: a) bears like berries and berries were named for the bear, or b) settlements were protected by brambles and other thornbushes against bears and other wild animals, or c) alleys between brambles or black berry thornbushes were used for trapping bears. Pear Latin pire is not yet explained, so I propose the shape of a bear's head as origin, round with a long snout. Bear German Bart is an obvious derivative of BIR. Bare could once have meant a skinned animal deprived of its fur. The Norse berserks were clad in bear skins impregnated with oil and herbs that made them go wild. English beorn means warrior. Also war (stifle) could have its origin in bear hunting, and a bard may once have sung about the perils bear hunters encountered. Fear fury ferocious wary ward pursue may be further derivatives. Peaceful derivatives may be fair in the sense of blond, warm ware purchase. Burly is the shape of a man clad in bear skin. A German Bürste 'brush' is sort of an artificial fur. We say brrr when it is very cold and we are in need of a warm coat, and in the Ice Age this would have been a fur coat. Felines purr. A bear ending quasi hibernation lets go a tremendous fart German Furz. A bear going to quasi hibernation digs a hollow, and this may have given raise to the words fork furrow farm farmer.

(end of part 3, to be continued)

