

# THE HELLENIC IDENTITY OF ANCIENT MACEDONIA

Continued from previous edition



The above is an image of a mosaic found in Pella, portraying the god Dionysus.

Dionysus was probably the most celebrated god amongst ancient Macedonians, who held regular drinking competitions.

This god was also associated with the Eleusinian mysteries. The god of ecstasies, he was considered the gate through which humans could access the world of the gods.

The image below belongs to the ancient theatre in Aigai. This is the same theatre that Phillip B' was assassinated by Pausanias.

Until today another three theatres have been discovered in ancient Macedonia.

It is known that the theatre is a Greek religious and cultural concept. Theatrical plays, tragedies and comedies, were part of the religious festivals in honor of the god Dionysus.

The word 'Theatre', originates from the Greek verb 'theomai', which means 'I am seen'.

Ancient theatre was considered the school of the people. The spectators looking on what was happening on the stage were to reflect upon their own soul and mind. They were to understand part of their own human nature, to achieve the Delphic oracle's command 'Know Thyself', and become bet-

ter people.

But looking at the play, they were looking at the masses.

It is well known that the great Athenian tragedian Euripides lived his last years in Macedonia when Archelaus A' was king. He wrote at least two tragedies, one with the title 'Archelaus', in honor of the king, and the second one with the title 'Bacchae', in honor of Dionysus.

We know that he wrote his plays in Greek. The Greek used in ancient tragedies is of the most difficult and we must keep in mind that music was also a very significant component. The ancient Macedonians saw these plays and understood them in Greek.

Again, the above example tells us that the language, the religion, and the culture of ancient Macedonians were Greek.



The above image belongs to what is the most famous of ancient Macedonian symbols, the 16 ray sun.

The symbol, decorating the golden lamina unearthed by Manolis Andronikos at Vergina is considered to be distinctively ancient Macedonian.

This is a fallacy. The symbol is found throughout the ancient Greek world. The above pot was found in Laconia, the land of the Spartans, and is now in the Louvre.

What is not very well known is that the ancient Greeks including the ancient Macedonians had two more similar symbols, the 12 ray sun and the 8 ray sun. It is believed that these three suns together are a symbol of Sirius, a

system of three stars, which the ancient Greeks identified with Apollo and Dionysus and believed that the energy coming from these three stars had a great beneficial effect on the Aegean and its people. The ancient Greeks used to take oaths on this star, something we witness Socrates doing in Plato's dialogues.

We come now to what is perhaps the most sensitive issue concerning the ancient Macedonians, what language did they speak.

The Skopjans once again manipulated the sources in order to 'prove' that the ancient Macedonians spoke their own language and therefore are not Greeks.

They translate the term 'Makedonisti' found in the ancient texts, as 'Macedonian language'.

This is clearly wrong as the term refers to a dialect not a language. We have similar examples from ancient Greece, for example the term 'Attikisti', referring to the dialect the Athenians spoke. While these are all different dialects they all belong to the same language. As everyone who has visited Greece will know, everyone in Greece has its own dialect even today, but they are all Greek.

There have been more than 5,000 archaeological findings from ancient Macedonia that have writings on them. They are ALL in Greek. Findings that belonged to everyday people of ancient Macedon.



Above is a distinct finding because it allows us to identify not only the language but also the dialect that the ancient Macedonians spoke. The finding is a funerary stele that belongs to a Macedonian boy who died young. We can see his ball, his dog, and is also holding a toy bird. The inscription reads

'Xanthos Demetriou kai Amadikas uios', which translates into 'Xanthos the son of Demetrios and Amadikas'. Apart from the obvious fact that the writing and names are Greek, the ending of the feminine name 'Amadik-as', is a characteristic of the Doric dialect, the same dialect the Spartans spoke.

If we examine the names of the

ancient Macedonians we will see that they are all Greek. Here are some examples:

Pausanias, the murderer of Phillip. The name is also found amongst Spartans.

Kratemos, general of Alexander. His name means 'power'.

Perseus. The famous Greek hero who cut Medousa's head.

Demetrios. Derived from the Greek goddess Demeter.

Antipatros. From the Greek word 'anti' and 'pater', which means 'Father'.

Antigonos. The masculine form of the Greek heroine Antigone.

Their cities also have Greek names. Some examples:

**Aeges.** Has the same source etymologically as the word Aegean, Aegeas who was Theseus' father, and aega, which means 'goat'. We find the image of a goat on many ancient Macedonian coins, and the animal was considered sacred as it was the goat Amaltheia that fed Zeus as a baby.

**Eleutheres.** Has the same source etymologically as the words 'eleutheros' and 'eleutheron' which are associated with 'freedom'.

**Dion.** Derived from the Greek god Dias or Zeus. It was the sacred city of ancient Macedon built on foot of mountain Olympus, which geographically belonged to ancient Macedon. Can you imagine the ancient Greeks having their gods live on the top of a foreign mountain?

**Pella.** The capital of ancient Macedon. The name is an excellent example in order to demonstrate how the ancient Greeks used their language as a code. In ancient Greek every letter had a certain meaning, it conceptualized certain values and ideas. For more information on this one can read the Platonic dialogue 'Kratylos', and modern studies by Tsatsomimis, Altani, and Dakoglou. The first letter of a word always identifies the most important concept of that word. In the word 'Pella' the first letter is 'P'. This letter means 'gate', as its shape in Greek also indicates. The next syllable 'el', means 'god', and the last syllable 'la', means

'rock' and in a wider context 'land'. It is from this word that the English word for 'land' comes from. Therefore 'Pella' means 'Gate to the god's land'.

This is the secret and unmistakable code of the Hellenic language and clearly proves that the ancient Macedonians not only spoke but also understood very well its sacred usage.

The ancient historian Livy (XXXI.29.15), states: 'Aetolians, Acarnanians, Macedonians, people of the same language'.

Of course the Aetolians and Acarnanians being Greeks that lived in Central West Greece.

Next week don't miss last part

