



suɛri tuvomɔʃi
“Music without Time”

The Writing System (Static Songs) of the Singers of the Ancient Forests

By Jaron Zanerhaft



HISTORY

“A reader lives a thousand lives before he dies,” said Jojen. “The man who never reads lives only one. The singers of the forest had no books. No ink, no parchment, **no written language.**”

-- A DANCE WITH DRAGONS

How it Came to Be (for them):

- Due to their excellence in agility, of both action and perception, the Singers of the Forests developed a crude process to sketch out the prototypical movements of their surrounding creatures and elements.
- These movements eponymously translated, in their perception, as songs.
- **Needing to quickly capture these movements, they made their earliest markings with their claws in the earth and soil.**
 - c.f. CH.34 DD: "Their hands had only three fingers and a thumb, with sharp black claws instead of nails."
- This subjective way of making notations evolved somewhat into a simplified, objective way of communicating these songs to their young.
- **However** young Singers don't really exist anymore.
 - c.f. Ch.34, A Dance with Dragons "The gods gave us long lives but not great numbers."
 - This fact has led to little need or evolution of the basic system, so that which exists is very old.

How Protoglyphs Worked:

- Each protoglyph matched to a song of some natural thing.
- Many protoglyphs are preserved as personalized outwardly-facing markings, to formally indicate one singer's repertoire to the others. By displaying what we might understand as, if you will, their taste in music, they can easily find others with whom they can join in song.

How it Works Still:

- **more accurately described as a reading system**
- Roughly, it's an alphabet, written left to write or top to bottom
 - **However**, as a reading system, it's better understood as temporal; whichever letters appear first are read first
- Originally, no spaces or punctuation existed. However, some spacing now appears between sentences, words, and even some letters.

How it Worked for me:

- My Process
 - Troubles with Calligraphy ...
 - Marker on a Dry-Erase Board? Not really... →
 - Pencil-Claws on Paper? Getting closer... →
 - But how to get there? A friend suggests something...
 - Etch it out in Salt? That's the ticket! →



PROTO-TOOLS

First Attempt: Dry-erase Board







PROTO-
CONSONANTS



l



t



k



tʃ



p



s (z)



w



j



ʃ (ʒ)



dʒ



ŋ



d



g



f (v)



r



h



m



b

...and /n/



The image features two large, thick black L-shaped brackets. One is positioned in the top-left corner, and the other is in the bottom-right corner. They are oriented towards each other, framing the central text.

PROTO-VOWELS



i



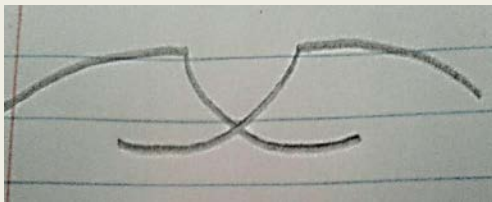
u



e



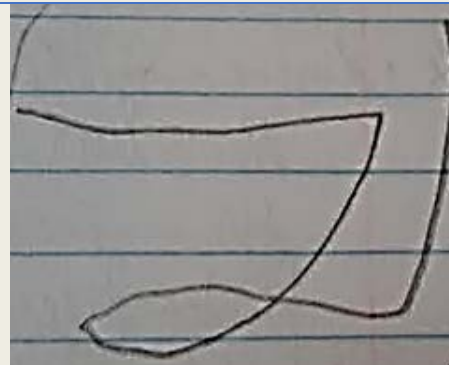
o



ε



a



ɔ



MODERN-ISH
GLYPHS

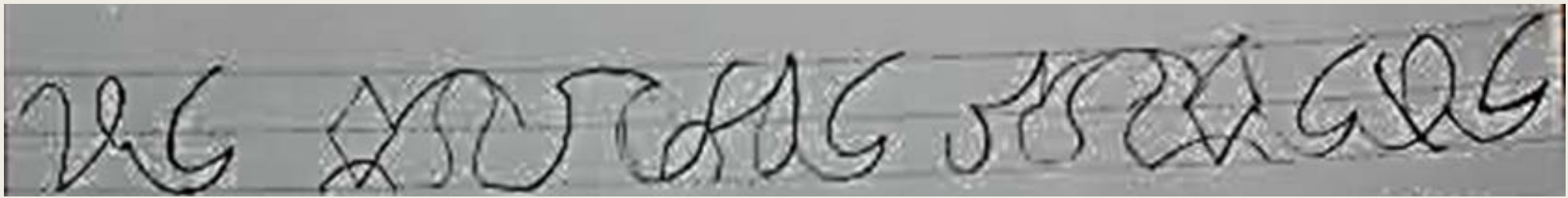
d - u
s - s(z)
d - d
c - k
b - b
l - l
t - t
d - d3
m - m
f - f(v)
e - e

x - x
t - t
n - n
o - o
p - p
w - w
j - j
s - s(3)

a - a
o - o
i - i
g - g
h - h
r - r
o - o

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SAMPLE SENTENCES



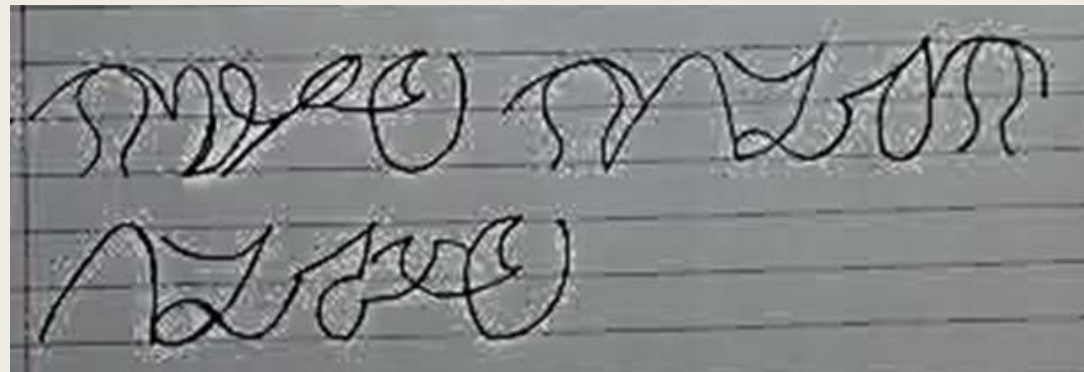
I traveled through the dark.

vi garuzi jagili



You remember me.

bol bakovo dovi



The ancestor is a root.

a:.von adɔʒa dɔ.tɛn



Will a complete writing system emerge?

Can the letters connect?

Who will sing the songs when the Singers of the Forests are gone?

... The answers will surely come soon!





QUESTIONS?