

Problem #3

The ‘hook’ that each word has in the middle or at the right edge (if the word is written by two characters) marks a vowel. The little circle on top of it indicates brevity (accordingly, the absence of a circle indicates length). From the words ‘passion’ and ‘turn around’, which contain a character not found anywhere else, we see that the direction of the script is left to right and the ‘rare character’ stands for **k**. The other characters in these words are **m** (the final consonant in ‘passion’) and **η** (in ‘turn around’). No word but ‘have’ begins with **m**, so we derive the character for **n**. And so on; each consonant has its letter, except for final **m** after a short vowel; there is also a special character for the absence of an initial consonant.

Assignment 1.

ka:m	‘passion’	a:c	‘passion’
am	‘suck (a breast)’	cam	‘suck (a breast)’
pī̇m	‘delta’	pȯm	‘delta’
nȯm	‘lead, guide’	aη	‘lead, guide’
ηȯm	‘inarticulately’	pėη	‘inarticulately’
ηī̇k	‘turn around’	mī̇n	‘turn around’
caη	‘trim, rough-hew’		

To write the words in the Roman script, we need to determine the rules that govern the choice of the vowel: since it is always written by the same character, its quality will have to depend on the consonants (and, possibly, its quantity). Here is a summary of what we observe:

	short vowel		long vowel
	final m	final η	
initial p, m, n or η	ȯb pȯm, nȯm, ηȯm	ėb pėη	i̇b pī̇m, mī̇n, ηī̇k
initial c, k or zero	a am, cam, aη, caη		a: a:c, ka:m

Assignment 2.

kam	‘spoke (in a wheel)’	ca:m	‘Cham’
ka:k	‘crow’	nī̇:m	‘name’
ηėη	‘bright red’	mȯm	‘robust’

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