

MYC. *KI-ZO*

Ki-zo is a woman's name which appears on KN Ap 5748 + L 5901, joined by J. T. Killen¹. It might be related to the onomatopoetic root **kik*- from which the bird name *κίσσα / κίττα* < **kik-i-* 'jay', 'garulus gladurius' is derived. From the orthographic point of view *zo* < *kio* would correspond well to a formation from this stem (*Kissō* < *Kikijō*). Personal names are derived from similar onomatopoetic words, cf. Κόραξ, Κορακίνος, Κόκκυξ, Τέττιξ, etc. But from the stem *kiki-* only the mythological name *Kίσσα* is documented in the Greek onomasticon of the first millennium.

More Greek personal and mythological names, corresponding to *ki-zo*, are formed from *κισσός / κιττός, κισσαρός* 'ivy, hedera helix', e. g. *Κίσσος*, *Κισσός* (Dionysos), *Κισσεύς* 'the ivy-crowned' (Apollon and Dionysos); *Κιττός* (Megara IG VII, 42, 35, cca 300 B. C.); *Κιττίης* (Styra, IG XII, 9, no. 56, 183, V cent.); [Κ]ισσεύς (Tanagra, IG VII, 1143); *Κισσο-φάνης* (Schliemann, *Troia* 252, II cent.), cf. Bechtel, *HPN*, 237, 569, 593; SEG VII, 1019, etc.

J. Pokorny (*Idg. etym. Wb.* p. 598) suggests that the stem of *κισσός* ends in a voiceless velar **kik*-, Skt. *śic-* f., *śikya-* n. 'Schlinge, Tragband', Lit. *śikṣṇa* 'feines Leder zur Verfertigung von Riemenwerk, Riemen'. The meaning of the quoted words by Pokorny seems quite far from that of *κισσός*, but having in mind the fact that ivy is often used for binding like straps, his suggestion is reasonable. This etymology was not accepted by H. Frisk (*Gr. etym. Wb.*, s. v.), but no more convincing explanation for *κισσός* is given till now². P. Chantraine (*Formation...* p. 34) finds that this is an obscure word. *Κισσ/ττός* is very likely a pre-Greek, but I.-E. word, the root of which ended in *-k*, as J. Pokorny suggested. Therefore I am inclined to admit as more probable the identification of *ki-zo* = *Kissō / Kittō* from *κισσ/ττός* rather than from *κίσσα / ττά*.

In fact **Κισσώ* is not documented either, but there is reason for such a name to be supposed. On the basis of the masc. personal name *Κισσός* and *Κισσεύς* a corresponding feminine pair *Κισσώ* can be expected, like *Μενεσθέύς*: *Μενεσθώ*, *Μελανθέύς*: *Μελανθώ*, etc.³ Both men's and women's names are frequently formed from plant names, cf. *Μύριος*: *Μυρτώ*, along with *Μύρτις*, *Μύρτα*, etc., *Μύρος*, *Μύρων*: *Μυρώ* etc., cf. also *Κέρασος* and Myc. *ke-ra-so* = **Kερασώ*.

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¹ Proc. of the Cambr. Coll., p. 83; Ž. A. XVI, p. 207 f., cf. also J.-P. Olivier, ABSA 62, 1967, p. 333. Before this joining, it was not certain whether *k* is an appellative, or a personal name, cf. M. Lejeune, Minos VI, 2, 1958, p. 109.

² Neither the explanation by Walde-Hofmann (*Lat. etym. Wb.* s. v. *hedera*) nor the suggestion by Carnoy, L'Ant. Class. XXIV, p. 17, that *κισσός* is of Pelasgian origin from I.-E. **geis*-, is convincing.

³ Cf. A. Heubeck, *Ke-ra-so*, Kadmos IV, 2, 1965, p. 140.