

# *Origin of the Albanians*





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## Associated Readings

- *An Introduction to the Table of Nations.*
- *The Modern Day Descendants of Ishmael.*
- *The Sanctity of Nationhood in the Bible.*
- *When do the Armies of Ezekiel 38 and 39 Invade Israel?*
- *Where are the ‘Lost’ Tribes of Israel in the Modern World? An Introduction.*
- *Where are the Edomites today?*
- *Who are the Japanese?*
- *Who are the Latvians and Lithuanians?*
- *Who are the Mysterious Sukkiim?*
- *Who are the Peoples of Rosh?*

## Introduction

The Albanians are a mysterious people with a history and roots difficult to uncover for historians, anthropologists and human biologists.

The country itself can be understood to have two ethnic groups: Tosks in the south (Eastern Orthodox)<sup>1</sup> and Ghegs in the north (Catholic), each comprised of several tribes. Albanian ethnic peoples spill over into the neighbouring country of Kosovo which declared independence from Serbia in 2008 as well as small minorities in Serbia, North Macedonia, Greece and even Italy (where they migrated to during the Middle Ages).<sup>2</sup>



In addition, there are many hundreds of thousands scattered abroad in a diaspora. Some of these have reached achievements in music (Dua Lipa, Rita Ora), movie industry (Elisha Dushku, James Belushi), politicians (Antonio Gramsci), religion (Mother Teresa) and many more.

<sup>1</sup> See Gilles De Rapper (2012), "Blood and Seed, Trunk and Hearth: Kinship and Common Origin in southern Albania". In Hemming, Andreas; Kera, Gentiana; Pandelejmoni, Enriketa (eds.). *Albania: Family, Society and Culture in the 20th century*. LIT Verlag Münster, pp. 79–95.

<sup>2</sup> The assimilation of those in the region of Calabria have been studied and found that many still exhibit their original Albanian physical type. Refer to Corrado Gini, "The Physical Assimilation of the Descendants of Immigrants," *Hereditas*, Dec 1949, pp. 234-43. See also Antonia Tagarelli (et al), "Minority of Calabria (Southern Italy)," *Human Biology*, Vol. 77, No. 1 (1 Feb) 2007, pp. 45-60.

Although having suffered under the very repressive Communist Hoxha regime, the Albanians managed to shake off decades of nightmare existence (1946-1991) and today enjoy a large measure of freedom and prosperity.

From a Biblical perspective, who are these people? Which descendant of Noah do they descend?

Although this is not an easy quest, utilising whatever information that can be garnered from history, tradition, anthropology and such like, we can come to a reasonable outcome. A detailed history and human biology is not needed, as these have been read, digested and succinctly presented or referred to herein.

## Descendants of Lud

Josephus informs us that Lud gave rise to the Lydians (Flavius Josephus, *Antiquities*, 1 : 6) while the account of Herodotus shows us that they were a white people (Herodotus *Histories* 1 : 7). They lived in Asia Minor (Robert Gayre, *The Syro-Mesopotamian Ethnology As Revealed In Genesis X*, p. 24) with their land bounded by Phrygia, Mysia and Caria (James Douglas, *The New Bible Dictionary*, pp. 255, 760-61) but they have nothing to do, however, with the darker Ludim who descend from Mizraim who cannot be connected with the White Lydians (Jan Simon, *The Geographical and Topographical Texts of The Old Testament*, p. 57). The Lydians were also known as the *Luddu* in Accadian (Simon, *ibid*) and as a result "hardly anyone else but the Asiatic Lydians can be meant by 'Lud' ..." (Simon, *ibid*).

While the Egyptian monuments label them as the *Luden*, the Assyrians called them *Ludbu* (Allen Ross, "The Table of Nations in Genesis 10 - Its Contents," *Bibliotheca Sacra*, No. 131 (Jan-March), p. 29) and an ancient town in the area was known as *Ludbi* (Henry Saggs, *The Might That Was Assyria*, p. 46). Certainly a *Ludbu* is attested to on the upper reaches of the Tigris, in the cuneiform (Claus Westerman, *Genesis 1-11. A Commentary*, p. 513).

They may have joined with the Etruscans who were a certain priestly class from Chaldea with their subjects.

Though little is known about them, they ruled Rome for a large portion of its early history. Due to the science of archaeology over the past 200 years, over 13,000 inscriptions of Etruscan origin have been found and analysed, assisting in understanding their culture and influence in ancient Italy.

The Romans adopted many features of their culture and religion, continuing some of the Babylonianism that these people carried forth.

We are unable to read their inscriptions since their language has not yet been decoded, which contributes to their mystique. Instead, historians are forced to rely on accounts from other peoples, like those of the Greeks and Romans, as well as the fascinating findings of archaeologists. Etruscans' origins are still a topic of much controversy.

This was a topic of discussion and curiosity even in the ancient world. A few historians from antiquity wrote about them, including Herodotus (c484-420BC), Dionysius (c430-367BC), Livy (59BC-17AD), and Pliny (29-73AD).

Historians still debate as to whether the Etruscans originated in Asia Minor, south-east Europe or were native to Italy<sup>3</sup>, the former theory having gained the predominance. What

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<sup>3</sup> "The Etruscan civilization occupied a large area of central Italy during the Iron Age, including the modern-day regions of Tuscany, Lazio, and Umbria, with local expansions into neighboring Italian regions throughout its existence...**The first proposes an Anatolian/Aegean origin** as indicated by the ancient Greek writers Herodotus and Hellanicus of Lesbos. This hypothesis is supported by the presence of Ancient Greek cultural

happened was that the Etruscans, fleeing Chaldea after its fall, migrated to Lydia, where we find the *Ludbu*. Referring to the *Luden*, *Baker's Bible Atlas* notes that they migrated to Asia Minor after being displaced by the Assyrians (See also Robert Gayre, *The Syro-Mesopotamian Ethnology As Revealed In Genesis X*, p. 54). Together with the Etruscans they migrated into southern Europe to a district in Italy. John Lempriere's *A Classical Dictionary* asserts the following:

"Etruria, ... The ruling class were immigrants from Lydia, and the Tarquins at Rome were probably an Etruscan family ... its influence on Roman rites and ceremonials was very great. From Etruria came the curule chair, the fasces, augurs and haruspices, triumphs, trumpets, and the purple toga [these people were] famous for their superstitions and enchantments". (p. 231)

Before that they migrated from the Levantine area (ie Syria, Lebanon and surrounds):

"The mystery of where the Etruscans, and their non-Italian-like language, came from has puzzled researchers ever since. But a clue has recently been uncovered from an unlikely source: the local cattle. Writing in this week's *Proceedings of the Royal Society*, Paolo Ajmone-Marsan of the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart in Piacenza, Italy, and his **colleagues conclude from the genetic make up of modern cattle in Tuscany (the part of Italy where the Etruscans lived) that these animals' ancestors came from the Middle East. By implication, the ancestors of their owners did**, too... Dr Ajmone-Marsan's team looked at DNA from 11 Italian breeds of cattle and compared them with genome-database records for cattle breeds from the rest of the world. They found that six of the 11 were more closely related to breeds from the Balkans, Anatolia and the Middle East than they were to other West European cattle. Moreover, four of these six breeds are known from historical records to have originated in Tuscany and eastern Liguria—in other words, the area occupied by the Etruscans.

Unfortunately, when you do the same trick on modern human Tuscans, the result is not so clear-cut. Some modern Tuscans have mitochondrial DNA that looks Middle Eastern. Others do not. But it seems as if Etruria's cattle, at least, are Levantine." ("Tuscan cattle shed light on where the Etruscans came to Italy from," *The Economist*, 15 Feb 2007) [emphasis mine]<sup>4</sup>

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elements in Etruria during the so-called Orientalizing Period, between the eighth and sixth century BCE... the models that were found to fit the data best are those with a 38 to 59% contribution from Levantine or Anatolian populations into the local/preexisting C.Italy\_Etruscan gene pool... **Substantial gene flow from the eastern Mediterranean** was also reported in ancient individuals from Rome dated to the Imperial period." (Cosimo Posth (et al), "The origin and legacy of the Etruscans through a 2000-year archeogenomic time transect," *Science Advances*, 24 Sept 2021, pp. 1, 2, 3) [emphasis mine]

<sup>4</sup> See "The mystery of Etruscan origins: novel clues from *Bos taurus* mitochondrial DNA," *Proceedings of the Royal Society. Biological Sciences*, Vol. 274, No. 1614, pp. 1175–79.

Indeed. For they brought with them various Egyptian and Babylonian elements including religion, divining art, farming and so on. Tuscany in Italy is named after the Etruscans or Etrurians as the name is sometimes spelt. One area occupied by them in Italy was known as *Alba*. The Etruscans are identified with the Tyrsenians or Tyrrhenians of history (Robert Gayre, *The Syro-Mesopotamian Ethnology As Revealed In Genesis X*, p. 54). Friedrich Hertz writes that the Etruscans were known as *Tusci*, *Tyrrheni* and *Tursha* to the Egyptians (*Race and Civilization*, p. 112) and that "in all probability there existed two distinct racial types within the Etruscans" (Hertz, *ibid*, p. 114). Dr Erich von Fange agrees with this assessment stating that one group was mongoloid or Finnic by race (*Table of Nations*, p. 33). They may have been conquered subjects of the Etruscans.<sup>5</sup>

Additionally, their origin has been tackled using DNA analysis technologies. According to research that appeared in *The American Journal of Human Genetics* in April 2007, eleven mitochondrial DNA lineages that are unique to Tuscany but also exist in the Near East have been discovered elsewhere in Europe ("Mitochondrial DNA variation of modern Tuscans supports the near eastern origin of Etruscans," *The American Journal of Human Genetics* Vol. 80, No.4 (April), pp. 759-68).

The Etruscans must have split from them (the Ludbu) - with the Ludbu migrating to south-east Europe, giving their name to the River Ludias (also spelt *Loudias*) in Macedonia. They settled in what we call Albania today, which was named after the land of Alba (*Arba* in the local dialect) in Piedmont (northwest Italy) where some may also have settled. Langer's famous *Encyclopedia of World History* maintains that the Etruscans came from Lydia and that the Lydians contributed a marked amount to ancient Italian civilization (William Langer, *Encyclopedia of World History*, p. 50).<sup>6</sup> Professor Coon in his *Living Races of Man* mentions that the Etruscan language of ancient northern Italy was from the Indo-Hittite

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<sup>5</sup> By way of an aside, it is interesting to note that Professor Sadovsky of California State University-Fullerton, has written of the many interesting similarities between the Finnic peoples and American Indians (Otto von Sadovsky "The Discovery of California: Breaking The Silence Of The Siberia-To-America Migrants," *The Californians*, Nov-Dec (1984), p. 16). In or near the Etruscan lands anciently, a city known as Atia (Lempriere, *ibid*, pp. 91, 123) was once known. We also find that a nation called the Rhaeti once lived in Etruria (Lempriere, *ibid*, p. 544). Strangely enough the Maoris claim to come from an island in the Pacific with a similar name.

<sup>6</sup> "In 1885 a stele carrying an inscription in a pre-Greek language was found on the island of Lemnos, and dated to about the 6th century BC. Philologists agree that this has many similarities with the Etruscan language both in its form and structure and its vocabulary. But genetic links between the two regions have been difficult to find until now.

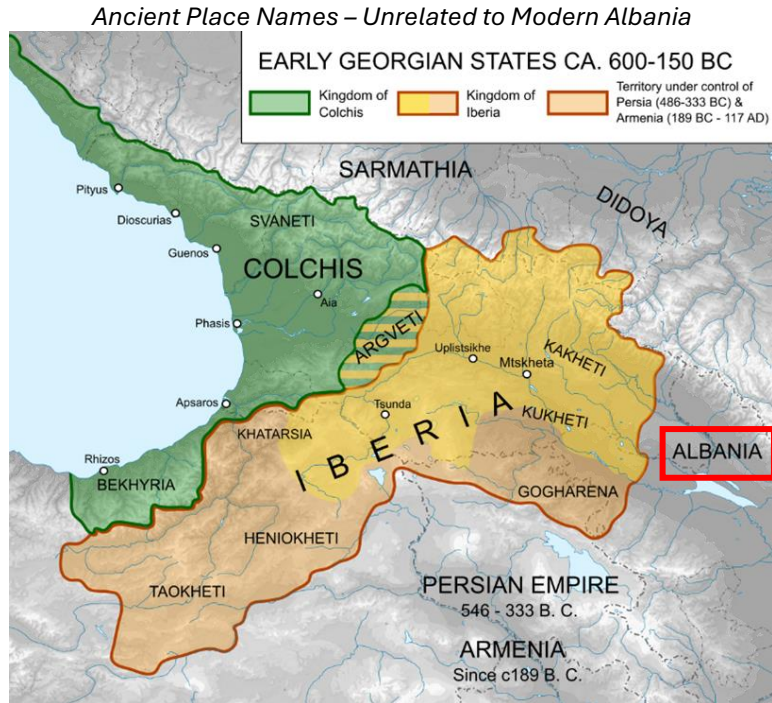
Herodotus' theory, much criticised by subsequent historians, states that the Etruscans emigrated from the ancient region of Lydia, on what is now the southern coast of Turkey, because of a long-running famine. Half the population was sent by the king to look for a better life elsewhere, says his account, and sailed from Smyrna (now Izmir) until they reached Umbria in Italy.

"We think that our research provides convincing proof that Herodotus was right", says Professor Piazza, "and that the Etruscans did indeed arrive from ancient Lydia." ("Ancient Etruscans were Immigrants from Anatoli, or what is now Turkey," *ScienceDaily*, 18 June 2007)

Refer also to Amanda Collins, "The Etruscans in the Renaissance: the Sacred Destiny of Rome and the Historia Viginti Saeculorum of Giles Viterbo (c. 1469-1532)," *Historical Reflections*, Vol. 27, Issue 1, pp. 107-37. And Zacharie Mayani, *The Etruscans Begin to Speak* (1962).



Illyrian tongue which is today represented by the Albanian language.<sup>7</sup> He feels that perhaps they came into Italy via Albania. In any event, he believes that they originated in Asia Minor (Carlton Coon, *Living Races of Mankind*, p. 57).<sup>8</sup>



Finally, as an aside, there was an ancient area of Albania in the Caucasus. Unfortunately, some people confuse the two, thinking that they are somehow related.

Caucasian Albania should not be confused with European Albania. The two countries have nothing in common. The toponym was created from Greek sources who incorrectly translated the Armenian language” (“Caucasian Albania,” Wikipedia, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caucasian\\_Albania](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caucasian_Albania), 5 Aug 2024).

It is too easy to get confused by historical inaccuracies, historian bias, transfer of tribal names from people to another, or wrongful allocation of tribal and place names.

<sup>7</sup> In fact there seems to be some Elamite words, or words that somehow derive from the Elamites, embedded in the language. This should not be surprising as many or most Illyrians were the Elamites who migrated out from the area of south-west Iran.

<sup>8</sup> “The head of the Dinaric type of humans (Illyrians) is characterized with a high breadth of the head, a medium length of the neurocranium (often back part is somewhat flattened), the vertical height of the cranium is high, and the face is long and wide. The horizontal cephalic index indicates that their head belongs to brachycephalic type (Coon, 1939; Dhima; Gunter, 1927; McCulloch, 2008; Ylli).” (Agron Rexhepi & Vjollca Meka, “Cephalofacial Morphological Characteristics of Albanian Kosova Population,” *International Journal of Morphology*, Vol. 26, No. 4 (2008), p. 935)

## Albanian Roots

The first mention of the name *Albanoi* is from the writings of Ptolemy (*Geography*) in c150AD. He places them in what we would regard as northern Albania; though Polybius mentions them in the second century BC as *Arbona*).<sup>9</sup> From that tribal name eventually the entire people were named.

It may be that the Albanian language, a modern relative of the Etruscan, is a branch of the great Indo-European family of languages (Mircea-Miha Radulescu, "Illyrian, Thracian, Daco-Mysian, The Substratum of Romanian and Albanian," *Journal of Indo-European Studies*, Vol. 12. Nos. 1 & 2 (1984), pp. 77-131). Yet there is much toing and froing over the origin of the language, and it is yet to be settled. Some are of the view that it is different from Illyrian, not helping with tracing these people (see Besar Likmeta, "Austrian Scholars Leave Albania Lost for Words," *BalkanInsight*, 25 March 2011). More on Albanian origins can be found in innumerable sources such as "Historical-Anthropological Ethno-Genesis of Albanian Society Development, Especially the Gjakovar with Surrounding One by Bekim Avdiaj and Lumnije Avdiaj," *European Journal of Interdisciplinary Studies*, Vol. 1, Issue 1 (Jan-April 2015), pp. 89-98.

Their mysterious origin is so interesting: they are not Romance, Greek or Slavic in origin.

As *Encyclopedia Britannica* explains:

The origins of the Albanian people are not definitely known, but data drawn from history and from archaeological and anthropological studies have led **some researchers** to consider the Albanians to be the direct descendants of the ancient Illyrians. The linguistic evidence in that regard is most unclear; the Albanian language is certainly a distinct branch of the Indo-European family, but, largely because of a dearth of information on the language of the ancient Illyrians, **it is difficult to convincingly demonstrate a connection between the two languages**. (Some scholars, moreover, dispute such theses, arguing that Illyrians were not autochthonous to Albania and that Albanian derives from a dialect of the now-extinct Thracian language, but again the data are sparse and thus the arguments are difficult to judge.)<sup>10</sup> [emphasis mine]

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<sup>9</sup> "Hecataeus of Miletus (550-476 BCE) may refer to them under the name of Abroi ("Albanians," *Wikipedia*, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Albanoi>)

<sup>10</sup> Refer to Lindon Dedvukaj & Patrick Gehringer, "Re-evaluating Albanian's place in Indo-European studies," *Proceedings of the Linguistic Society of America*, Vol. 7, No. 1 (2022) for recent research on the Albanian language.

Also, in terms of physical anthropology, the Albanians appear to be related to or at least associated with the Illyrian peoples of the Dinaric branch. The Illyrians were probably descendants of Elam.<sup>11</sup>

They are noted for their large round head, flattened at the back (Francis Huxley *Peoples of The World in Colour*, p. 121). Historians note that the Albanians descend from the *Albanoi* tribe of the Illyrians (*Encyclopedia Britannica*, 15th ed, art "Albania"). As explained earlier, today they are divided between the Ghegs in the north and Tosks in the south, separated roughly by the Shkumbian River. These two Albanian peoples comprise 95% of the population, but the remainder are Greeks, Romanians and Bulgarians. Under the former, oppressive and terrible Communist regime, "as [sometimes] customary in Socialist countries, are allowed to keep their language and national customs" (ibid).

The Ghegs and Tosks have certain differences which are apparent: they do not only differ in dress, musical and other cultural customs, but also in human biology. The Tosks have a less Dinaric head form and are generally shorter (Carlton Coon, *The Races of Europe*, pp. 633-634). In addition, the Tosks also have the same cephalic index as their *Epirotes* tribe in Greece, just across the border (Coon, ibid, p. 604). The tribes of the Tosks are the Myzeqe, Camevia and *Laberia*. *Laberia* may be a derivation of Lub or Lud. Dr Pilkey suggests that the Ghegs descend from the Canaanite Girgashites (John Pilkey, *Origin of the Nations*, p. 94). The tribes of the Ghegs are the Dukagjin and Maleia (*Encyclopedia Britannica*, 15th ed, art "Albania"). The Tosks look down upon the Ghegs as uncivilized; conversely, the Ghegs regard the Tosks as weaker and mercenary (George Arnakis, *The Near East in Modern Times*. Vol. 1, p. 30). One tribe of the Ghegs are the Kosovars who live in the Serbian province of Kosovo. The Ghegs or Gegs are:

"...more animated, verbose, and at times rowdier ... [they] speak loudly and forcefully, and to outsiders they may even appear angry - gesticulating wildly and even throwing things down on the table when talking ... Gegs and Tosks speak somewhat different dialects." (Yale Richmond, *From Da to Yes. Understanding the East Europeans*, pp. 218-19).<sup>12</sup>

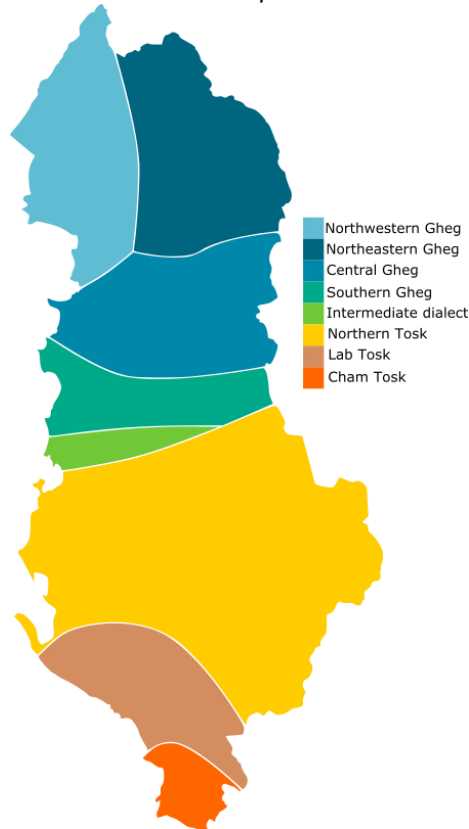
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<sup>11</sup> Note however, that the designations Illyrians, Illyria, and Illyricum have historically served as ethnic and geographic references that have evolved over time. The shifting interpretations of these terms have frequently led to confusion among both ancient authors and contemporary researchers. Significant academic endeavors have been undertaken to examine and elucidate these transformations. As such, the term might refer to several different peoples. See Danijel Dzino, "Illyrians' in ancient ethnographic discourse," *Dialogues d'histoire ancienne*, Vol. 40, No. 2 (2014), pp. 45-65.

Also, it is of interest that a tribe once extant in the region of Albania was the *Shoshi*, which may have been an Elamite element from the area of *Susa* in Iran.

<sup>12</sup> Adrian Poruciuc refers to a "small, dark type [in Albania characterised by] round head, face short and rather wide across the cheekbones" ("Problems And Patterns of the SE European Ethno- And Glottogenesis," *Mankind Quarterly*, Vol. 33, No. 1, p. 10). These appear to be different to the Ghegs and one wonders if they are not remnants of the descendants of Tiras in the area. Apparently small groups with similar description are also found in parts of Bulgaria and southwest Rumania.

Ethnic Sub-Groups in Albania



Anciently the descendants of the Girkashites were known as the *Karkisa* or *Qaraqisha* to the Hittites and *Kirkash* to the Egyptians when they resided in Asia Minor.

Perhaps another branch of Lud is located in the Caucasus region, and known today as the Georgians with the areas of *Tskaro* and *Tskhinvali*, reminiscent of *Tosk*. They are also an Alpine/Dinaric people and have the greatest degree of blondism for peoples of that region, other than the Ossetes (Carlton Coon, *The Races of Europe*, pp. 633-34). It should also be noted that an ancient territory in that area was known as *Lubdu* or *Lubdi* (G. Charles Aalders, *Bible Students Commentary. Genesis* (Vol. 1), p. 234).

Today Albania's official name is *Shqiperi*, but it is probably not a derivative of *Iperia* or *Iberia* which was a name for eastern Georgia. Rather, *Shqiperi* meaning 'Land of the Eagles'.<sup>13</sup>

<sup>13</sup> Of interest is that they may have migrated via the Carpathian Mountains: "In a lecture at the Romanian Academy in 1901, he asked: "Cine sunt Albanezii? (Who are the Albanians?) When and where did they come to Epirus?" Haşdeu found the genesis of the Albanians from two Dacian tribes: the Kostoboks (Tosks) and the Karpets (Gegs), who fled from the Carpathians and created the Albanian people in the Balkans. He also relied on the names Tosk, with a metathetic assumption from Kosto- to Kostobok and karba, assumed to be related to the Carpathians, and denoting the eagle, the mythological symbol of the Gegi... In "Vocabularul autochthon al limbii române", 1983, Brâncuş came to this conclusion: **the connections between Tuscan and Daco-Romanian are more numerous than those between Georgian and Romanian**, even though Tuscan is spoken in the south, that is, further from Romanian than the heckling. This after him means that the Albanians once lived in a northeastern space in relation to today's space." ("About the relations between Dakorumanish and Toskresh," *Koha*, 21 Sept 2019) [emphasis mine]

The Albanians are also known as the *Arben*, *Arber* or *Arbereshe* tribes (Stefanaq Pollo & Arben Puto, *The History of Albania*, p. 40), "Arberia being a word akin to Berber or Barber" (Herman Hoeh, "Truth About the Race Question," *The Plain Truth*, July, p. 21). Among the Berbers of North Africa today are the Kabyles or Cabyles. Contrary to the dolicocephalicy and mesocephalicy of the Berbers, the Kabyles are brachycephalic, have a lighter skin tone and there are some blondes among them (Gloria Wysner, *The Kabyle People*, p. 26). They also speak a Hamitic language (Wysner, *ibid*, p. 29). No one really knows for sure where they came from, but historians and anthropologists do acknowledge that there have been migrations from south-east Europe to North Africa and vice versa (Wysner, *ibid*, p. 34). Two prophecies in Ezekiel and Jeremiah refers to a branch of the Lydians (Hebrew "Lud") dwelling in North Africa (Jer 48:9; Ezek 30:5). Another in Nahum refers to the Lubim in North Africa (Nah 3:9). Whether the latter refers to Lehabim or the Ludbu one cannot state either way with certainty.

Albanian National Flag



Ammianus Marcellinus mentions a city of *Cabyle* in Thrace (*The Surviving Books of the History of Ammianus Marcellinus*, xxxi.8.21) and the tribe of the Chalybes as dwelling in northern Asia Minor, near or in Armenia (Marcellinus, *ibid*). While Pliny the Elder refers to the tribe of the *Cabyleti* as dwelling on the banks of the Maritza in Thrace, south-east Europe (Pliny, *Natural History*, iv.xi.40. See Lempriere, *ibid*, p. 122) and the *Albani*, *Chalybes* and *Armeno-chalybe* tribes as dwelling in or near Georgia (Pliny *ibid* vi.x.29; vi.iii. 11-12. Also Lempriere, *ibid*, pp. 27,114,142, 292).<sup>14</sup>

Finally, you can read about the genetic studies on the Albanians and their uniqueness in articles such as Leonidas-Romanos Davranoglou (et al), "Ancient DNA reveals the origins of the Albanians," *bioRxiv*, 7 June 2023 (48 pp).<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>14</sup> In addition we had the town of Chalybon in Syria (Lempriere, *ibid*, p. 142), the Chalybs river and the Calybes tribe in Spain (Lempriere, *ibid*). Perhaps this tribe descended from Lud too? But is there a connection to the two? It is hard to know.

<sup>15</sup> "The origins of the Albanian people have vexed linguists and historians for centuries, as Albanians first appear in the historical record in the 11th century CE, while their language is one of the most enigmatic branches of the Indo-European family. To identify the populations that contributed to the ancestry of Albanians, we undertake a genomic transect of the Balkans ..." (p. 1)

## The Ghegs and Arvanites

It may be that many of the people residing in Albania descend from Canaanites which this author endeavours to explore below.

### Girgashites

Although the Girgashites were with their brethren around Palestine, a tribe known as the *Karkisa* were later mentioned in the Hittite Annals, as existing in Asia Minor (See Lempriere, *ibid*, p. 471; Umberto Cassuto, *Commentary on the Book of Genesis*, p. 210). Another rendering of that tribe is *Qarqisha* (Jan Simon, *The Geographical and Topographical Texts of The Old Testament*, p. 38).<sup>16</sup>

Another author wrote:

“... the Girgashites might be the Qaraqisha people who allied with the Hittites against the Egyptians. This implies that the Girgashites lived in the area north of the Holy Land, and, in fact, the name Girgash may be attested to at Ugarit.” (Reuven Chaim, “More On The Seven Nations: Girgashite Flight And The Cannanite Nation,” *Jewish Bible Quarterly*, Vol. 46, No. 3, 2018, p. 165)

Perhaps they migrated to the steppes near the Caspian Sea which was known as “Sea of the Girgashites” anciently and thence on to South-east Europe giving rise to the Albanian Ghegs.<sup>17</sup> It is of interest that there was a Jewish tradition of Canaanites dwelling in the Caucasus region (Chaim, *ibid*).

Consider that the region of Georgia was known as *Gurjistan* to the Persians, indicating that it either had or still has some remnants of the descendants of Girgashite dwelling therein.

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<sup>16</sup> Did some migrate into North Africa? Six of seven Canaanite tribes (minus the Girgashites) are not mentioned in Ex 33:2 and 34:11 but are mentioned in Deut 7:1. They are not mentioned again in Num 13:29 or Jos 11:3. It may be that part of them had migrated out and joined with the peoples of Lud?

“For Rabbi Samuel bar Naḥman said, Joshua sent three orders to the Land of Israel before they entered the Land: Those who want to evacuate should evacuate, those who want to make peace should make peace, those who want to go to war should go to war. The Girgashites evacuated, believed in the Holy One, praised be He, and went to Africa. (2K. 18:32, Is. 36:17) “Until I come and take you to a land like your Land,” that is Africa. The people of Gibeon made peace, (Jos. 10:1) “... that the inhabitants of Gibeon had made peace with Israel.” Thirty-one kings went to war and fell.” (*Yerushalmi Shevi'it*, 6:1) Is Carthage a derivation of the name? The Egyptians warred with the *krkš* during the third century BC and there were inscriptions referring to a Girgash in pagan temples in Tunis (Prof. Yoel Elitzur, *The Nations of Canaan and the Girgashites*).

<sup>17</sup> Some of them might have migrated eastwards and intermarried with the locals for a tribe known as the *Orang Gergasi* (=giants) dwell among the Sakai-Semang tribes of Malaysia (Skeat & Blagden, *Pagan Races of the Malay Peninsula*).





It is of note that near the Chalybes mentioned earlier in this article, there was a region known as *Gogari* or *Gogharena*. This may be a derivation from *Girgash*, but probably more likely to be of Gog, given its proximity to the area of *Moschi*. On the other hand, nearby was the area of *Chaldaei*, indicating that perhaps Babylonian/Canaanites dwelt nearby.

An example of physical anthropological scientific research is that by none other than the famous Carlton Coon (*The Mountains of Giants. A Racial and Cultural Study of the North Albanian Ghegs*).

He travelled to the northern Albanian mountains to gather information for a comprehensive description of the Dinaric racial type, aiming to understand its origins. He conducted extensive measurements and observations on nearly 1,100 Highland Gheg males, evenly distributed among 10 mountain tribes, while ensuring balanced representation from subtribes and villages. His original work, though finalised in 1932, was completely revised and only published in 1946 and republished later in 1950.

The book stands out for two main reasons. Firstly, Coon adeptly integrates relevant aspects of contemporary culture, such as technology, marriage customs, and feuding practices, into the historical context and environment of the Mountain Ghegs to illustrate why they constitute a closed genetic population. Consequently, the Mountain Ghegs are depicted as largely isolated from the outside world and, to a significant extent, from one another.

A Typical Mountain Gheg<sup>18</sup>



Coon undertook meticulous examination of his measurements and indices concerning the influence of environmental and other factors. Among these factors, age-related changes, dental occlusion, nutrition, and cradling have contributed to the development of the Gheg phenotype. For instance, facial dimensions and nasal convexity increase with age; dental wear and bite patterns together alter facial structure; the largest-bodied Ghegs inhabit limestone areas, while the smaller stature characteristic of Dinarics is primarily due to cradle-board pressure. As Coon notes, “The typical Dinaric has been shown to be partly the product of age and artifice. His gaunt face and hawklike nose usually develop in middle age; his broad, occipitally flattened head is largely a result of cradling. His lean physique is largely that of a man who has labored hard and consumed little.” Without these non-genetic influences, Mountain Ghegs would appear to be “...of the same basic genetic stock, disseminated widely in the Iron Age, from which most northern and western European peoples originated.”

### The Arvanites

The name of one group of peoples that were originally considered Albanian are the Arvanites who live in the Peloponnese region of Greece. Their language is known as Arvantika, related to Tosk.

They were settlers from Albania but over the centuries have gone through a period of assimilation and nowadays consider themselves more Greek than Albanian. As such they are bilingual, also speaking Greek (see Angeliki Lefkadiou, *Naturalizing the Nation: Physical Anthropology in Greece, 1880s–1950s*, p. 93).

Their name invites comparison to *Arvad*, a son Canaan. A small city and island on the Syrian coast was known as Arvad for centuries.

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<sup>18</sup> From inside the front to Carlton Coon’s *The Mountains of Giants. A Racial and Cultural Study of the North Albanian Ghegs*.



“Under the Emperor Constans, Muawiyeh, the lieutenant of the Caliph Omar, destroyed the city and expelled its inhabitants (*Cedren. Hist.* p. 355; *Theophan.* p. 227).” (“Arvad,” *The Cyclopædia of Biblical, Theological and Ecclesiastical Literature* online)

They disappeared from view, but could it be, is it possible, that these people migrated to the other side of the Mediterranean Sea along with other Canaanite peoples who populate the rim of the Sea area?

*Arvanite Men*<sup>19</sup>



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<sup>19</sup> Source: Anna Wichmann “The History of the Arvanites in Greece,” *The Greek Reporter*, 8 Nov 2023.

## Conclusions

What can we deduce from all we have studied and garnered in the article?

Have the sciences of ancient history, anthropology, traditions and tribal names assisted locating the ancestors of the Albanians and in turn, their place in the inspired Table of Nations?

To find out more about the history and background to the Albanians, there are many books and articles on the subject. A good summary can be found online at the *Britannica* site <https://www.britannica.com/place/Albania/Land> and the article “Origin of the Albanians” on *Wikipedia*.

But the research herein is a digest of all that, plus this author seeks to find where peoples listed in the mysterious Table of Nations are located today.

This includes the Albanians. From the above and other readings, it is reasonable to conclude that the Tosks descend from Lud and the Ghegs from the Gírgashites.



## Appendix. Albanian Language – Traces of Elamite

Information below by Moja, *From Eluri/Alluria (Luristan) to Illyria (Illuría)*, 3 Sept 2022  
(<https://www.eupedia.com/forum/threads/j2b-from-eluri-alluria-luristan-to-illyria-illur%C3%ADa.42812/page-3>).

In the south of Alluria there was ancient Elam, some Elamite words:  
[https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/Appendix:Elamite\\_Swadesh\\_list](https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/Appendix:Elamite_Swadesh_list)

- Elamite **u** "I" – Albanian **u** "reflexive pronoun"
- Elamite **ni-ka** "we" – Albanian **ne** "we"
- Elamite **zana** "woman, lady" – Albanian **zonjë** "lady"
- Elamite **at-ta** "father" - Albanian **atë** "father"
- Elamite **am-ma** "mother" - Albanian **mëmë** "mother"
- Elamite **uk-ku** "head" - Albanian **kokë** "head"
- Elamite **pa-at** "foot" - Albanian **putër** "paw"
- Elamite **kir-pi** "hand" - Albanian **krah** "arm"
- Elamite **krmi** "worm" - Albanian **krimbi** "worm"
- Elamite **da** "river" - Albanian **det** "sea"
- Elamite **ma-ri-ya** "good" - Albanian **mirë** "good"

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