

## Arawak name for Barbados was probably not "Ishirouganaim"

I just wish to briefly touch on a subject that comes up every so often in local academic circles, namely -the presumed 'Arawak' name for Barbados prior to the arrival of Europeans in the early 1500's.

The Academics are fond of the idea that the name in question was 'Ishirouganaim', but I tend to think it is far more likely that this name is in fact a Kalinago (Island Carib) or Igneri (the tribe inhabiting the Lesser Antilles before the (Carib migratory conquest) name, firstly - because it was among a list of country names the Kalinago supplied to the early European chroniclers long after the Lokono (Columbus mistakenly wrote 'Lukayo') & Taino Arawaks were a spent force in the region - and while the Kalinago yet retained their freedom in the Lesser Antillean islands.

Secondly, unlike all the Academics (who have never set foot in a Lokono-Arawak tribal community) who promote this view, I am maternally of Lokono-Arawak descent, have spent 14 years up to the present living among my people in Guyana, am married to a full-blooded Arawak, had children born (and 1 buried) on Arawak tribal lands in Guyana; and I wrote an English to Arawak dictionary in 2001 (ISBN 976-8078-70-7) with the aid of my father-in-law who is also a full-blooded fluent speaker of the Lokono-Arawak language (To Loko Ajianiwa), and I can tell you for a fact that 'Ishi' IS a Lokono-Arawak word - but that it means 'vagina', and 'Rou' is a South American Kalina-Carib word meaning 'Red'; and 'Ganaim' is neither a Lokono/Taino Arawak nor Kalina-Carib word. Since the Kalinago's descendants in Dominica (who I lived among for 6 weeks), St. Vincent & Trinidad have been scientifically (mitochondrial DNA and linguistic analysis) proven to be the product of miscegenation initially between Igneri & Lokono-Arawak females and Kalina- Carib males, and later West Africans of both genders - it is entirely likely that 'IshiRouGanaim' will prove to be a noun with origins in the union of 3 distinct languages; but to say it is an 'Arawak word' - would be totally incorrect.

But then again I have no 'PHD's to my name - so what credibility will my humble explanation have in a society afflicted by academic prejudice.

All for your information and Guidance,

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