

***abô**

Runic: ƿ ƿ ƿ

Pronunciation: /'α.βɔ::/

noun · masculine · an-stem

Meanings

husband; male spouse, especially as the male head of a household

Etymology

Probably from pre-Germanic **h₃ép-on-* ~ **h₃ep-n-*, an animate *n*-stem internal derivative of the Proto-Indo-European heteroclitc **h₃óp-r̥* ~ **h₃ép-n-* (Johnsen 2005b: 258–60; Rieken 1999: 315–18). The key evidence is Gothic *𐌰𐌶𐌰* (*aba*), whose rare genitive plural *𐌰𐌶𐌵* (*abnē*) and dative plural *𐌰𐌶𐌵𐌰𐌴* (*abnam*) preserve the zero-grade **-n-* of the inherited *n*-stem. Semantically, ‘possessor of wealth/property’ > ‘male head of household’ > ‘husband’ is straightforward (Johnsen 2005b: 251–60). Indo-European comparanda include Vedic Sanskrit *अपन्स* (*ápnas-*), Hittite *𐎶𐎠𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶* (*ḫa-ap-pí-na-* /*ḫappina-*/), and Latin *opulentus*, all belonging to the same PIE **h₃ep-/***h₃op-* complex (Kloekhorst 2008: 295–97; Watkins 2011: s.v. *op-*). A purely inner-Germanic derivation from a lost Strong class 6 verb ***afanq* (‘to do, make, perform’) remains possible, but it requires a longer semantic path: ‘worker/performer’ > ‘farmer/householder’ > ‘husband’.

Declension

Case	Singular	Plural
Nom.	abô	abniz
Acc.	abanų	abnuz
Gen.	abniz	abnô
Dat.	abni	abnamaz
Inst.	abnē	abnamiz
Voc.	abô	abniz

Descendants

afi (Old Norse)

avi (Faroese)

afi (Icelandic)

𐌰𐌿𐌳𐌰 (**aba**) (Gothic)

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