

***aftai** Runic: 𐌱𐌿𐌳𐌿𐌹𐌴𐌹 | Pronunciation: /'aɸ.taj/

adverb

Meanings

behind; in back; at the rear

Etymology

A Proto-Germanic adverbial locative in **-ai*, built secondarily to a reanalyzed stem **aft-* abstracted from **after* (‘after, behind’). The reinterpretation was probably **af-ter* → **aft-er*, after which a static locative form **aft-ai* was created to the newly reanalyzed stem, comparable in structure to **furai* (‘before, in front’) (Dunkel 2014: 66–86; Kroonen 2013: 3). Gothic 𐌳𐌿𐌳𐌹 (*afta*) is the key direct reflex; it has often been treated as an error for 𐌳𐌿𐌳𐌹𐌳𐌹 (*aftra*), but Lehmann (1986: s.v. *afta*) keeps it distinct because 𐌳𐌿𐌳𐌹𐌳𐌹 (*aftra*) does not normally mean simply ‘behind’. This is consistent with the static “where?” value of **aftai*, as opposed to the broader temporal/local range of **after*.

Descendants

𐌳𐌿𐌳𐌹 (*afta*) (Gothic)

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Related Words

Words mentioned in this entry

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