

***Agipewaz** Runic: ᚱᚰᚲᚱᚱᚱᚱᚱ Pronunciation: /'a.ɣi.θe.waz/

proper noun · masculine · a-stem

Meanings

a male given name; literally ‘edge-servant’ or ‘sword-retainer’, probably functioning as a heroic/warrior name

Etymology

From **agjō* + **pewaz*, continued most clearly by Old English *Ecgþēow*, the name of Beowulf’s father. The first element is from **agjō*, rather than **agaz*, since Old English *ecg* directly reflects **agjō*, whereas **agaz* lead to Old English *ege* (Bosworth & Toller 2014: s.vv. *ecg*, *þeów*; Kroonen 2013: 4; Ringe 2017: 145–46). The second element, **pewaz*, is secure within Germanic, but its deeper PIE derivation is debated. Kroonen (2013: 541) treats it as Germanic-only or at least without a fully secure PIE prehistory.

The Old English reflex appears to preserve a Continental Germanic heroic name: Shaw (2020: 26–29) argues that its first element was common in Old English but not securely productive in Scandinavian naming, while the second element was not productive in Old English names; both elements, however, are well represented in Continental Germanic onomastics. Shaw also compares the Scandinavian cognate *Eggþér*, found in the *Völuspá* edda and in Saxo’s writings, suggesting that the name may have been associated with a heroic single-combat figure before being reinterpreted in Scandinavian mythic contexts.

Declension

Case	Singular	Plural
Nom.	Agipewaz	-
Acc.	Agipewaꝥ	-
Gen.	Agipewas, Agipiwis	-
Dat.	Agipewai	-
Inst.	Agipewō	-
Voc.	Agipeu	-

Descendants

- *Agipeu (Proto-West Germanic)
 - Eċġpēow, Eċġpēo, Eċġpīow (Old English)
 - Egidio, Egideo (Old High German)

Eggþér (Old Norse)

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Related Words

Words mentioned in this entry

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