

***ainakjō** Runic: ᚱ | ᚠ | ᚦ | ᚨ | ᚷ | ᚩ Pronunciation: /'aj.nak.jō:/

noun · feminine · ōn-stem

Meanings

widow

Etymology

Possibly from earlier Proto-Germanic **ainak-jōn-* (‘solitary woman’), built to **ainak-/ainakla-* (‘standing alone, solitary’), ultimately from **ainaz* (‘one’) with a suffixal **-k-/*-kl-* extension, perhaps continuing Proto-Indo-European **h₁oyno-gó-* / **h₁oyno-g-lo-* (Krahe & Meid 1969: §156). Alternatively, according to Olsen, **ainakjō* is derived from the same stem as Old Norse *einka* and *einkum* (genitive and dative plural of unattested adjective **eink*). She posits an old compound as a protoform: **Hoyno-g^w(h₂)o-* meaning ‘going alone’, maintaining that “Germanic -k- is not an established suffix” (Magnússon 1989: s.v. *einka*–; Whitehead et al. 2021: 151–52). In either case, ultimately from Proto-Indo-European **h₁óy-no-s*. In North Germanic this internal Germanic formation replaced inherited **widuwō* < Proto-Indo-European **h₁wid^héwh₂*: compare Old Norse *ekkja*, Old East Norse/Old Swedish *ænkia*, Old Danish *ænkia*, Swedish *änka*, Danish/Norwegian *enke* (Kroonen 2013: 585; Ringe 2017: 61–62, 121; Whitehead et al. 2021: 151–52).

Declension

Case	Singular	Plural
Nom.	ainakjō	ainakjōniz
Acc.	ainakjōnu	ainakjōnunz
Gen.	ainakjōniz	ainakjōnô
Dat.	ainakjōni	ainakjōmaz
Inst.	ainakjōnē	ainakjōmiz
Voc.	ainakjō	ainakjōniz

Descendants

ekkja, ɛnkja (Old Norse)

ekkja (Faroese)

ekkja (Icelandic)

ekkja, ɛnkja (Old Norse)

ænkia (Old Danish)

enke (Danish)

einkja (Faroese)

enke (Norwegian Bokmål)

enke, enkje (Norwegian Nynorsk)

ekkja, ɛnkja (Old Norse)

ænkia (Old Swedish)

änka (Swedish)

𐌰𐌶𐌵𐌹𐌳𐌰 (ainakls) (Gothic)

[View on Wiktionary](#)

Related Words

Words mentioned in this entry

*ainaz numeral *widuwō noun

