

***aizō** Runic: 𐌱 | 𐌿 | 𐌶 | 𐌵 Pronunciation: /'ɑj.zɔ:/

noun · feminine · ō-stem

Meanings

1. reverence, respect, honor
2. favor, benevolence, mercy; assistance or protection

Etymology

Possibly from Proto-Indo-European **h₂oys-éh₂-*, an o-grade feminine abstract, from an otherwise poorly attested root **h₂eys-* and possibly related to the *d*-extended root **h₂eysd-* reflected in Gothic 𐌹𐌺𐌸𐌰𐌹𐌺𐌰 (*aistan*) (Kroonen 2013: s.v. **aizō-*; Rix et al. 2001: s.v. **h₂eisd-*). Since no secure non-Germanic cognate directly continues **h₂oys-éh₂-*, the deeper PIE analysis remains uncertain. The Germanic meanings ‘honor, reverence’, ‘favor, mercy’, ‘help, protection’, and ‘gift, reward’ are developments of a broad sense ‘respectful or benevolent treatment’ (Must 1961: 326–28). A possible early inscription of the word in the form of Latin “*Alaisiagae*” comes from 3rd century CE inscriptions at a shrine in Housesteads in Northumbria, England, presumably built by Frisians. The German philologist Wilhem Scherer (1841–1886) considered the word to be made up of Proto-Germanic ***al-* (< **allaz*, ‘all’) and ***ais-* < **aizō* (‘reverence, respect, honor’) (Mees 2023b: 128–36).

Declension

Case	Singular	Plural
Nom.	aizō	aizôz
Acc.	aizō	aizōz
Gen.	aizōz	aizō̂
Dat.	aizōi	aizōmaz
Inst.	aizō	aizōmiz
Voc.	aizō	aizôz

Descendants

***airu** (Proto-West Germanic)

- ēra** (Old Dutch)
 - êre** (Middle Dutch)
 - ieër** (Limburgish)

***airu** (Proto-West Germanic)

- ēra** (Old Dutch)
 - êre** (Middle Dutch)
 - eer** (Dutch)
 - eer** (Afrikaans)

***airu** (Proto-West Germanic)

- ār, āre** (Old English)
 - ore, oore, or, ʒore, aore, are, ære, ar** (Middle English)

***airu** (Proto-West Germanic)

- ēre, ēr** (Old Frisian)
 - Eere** (Saterland Frisian)
 - eare** (West Frisian)

***airu** (Proto-West Germanic)

- ēra** (Old High German)
 - ēre** (Middle High German)
 - Ehre** (German)
 - Ehr, Ihr** (Rhine Franconian)

***airu** (Proto-West Germanic)

ēra (Old Saxon)

ēre (Middle Low German)

Ehr, Ehre (Low German)

***airu** (Proto-West Germanic)

ēra (Old Saxon)

ēre (Middle Low German)

æra, eir (Old Norse)

ære (Danish)

æra, eirdómur, eirgingin, eirgrønur, eiring (Faroese)

æra, eir (Icelandic)

ære (Norwegian Bokmål)

ære (Norwegian Nynorsk)

ära (Swedish)

***airu** (Proto-West Germanic)

ēra (Old Saxon)

ēre (Middle Low German)

æra, eir (Old Norse)

ir (Danish)

irr (Norwegian Bokmål)

***airu** (Proto-West Germanic)

ēra (Old Saxon)

ēre (Middle Low German)

æra, eir (Old Norse)

eir (Norwegian Nynorsk)

eir (Norwegian Bokmål)

***airu** (Proto-West Germanic)

ēra (Old Saxon)

ēre (Middle Low German)

æra, eir (Old Norse)

ēr (Old Swedish)

ärg (Swedish)

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Related Words

Words mentioned in this entry

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