

***albiz** Runic: ᚱᚠᚢᚱᚢ Pronunciation: /'al.βiz/

noun · masculine · i-stem

Meanings

elf; a supernatural being of Germanic religion and mythology

Etymology

Probably from Proto-Indo-European **alb^h-i-s*, an *i*-stem derivative of **alb^hós*, referring originally to the being by its whiteness or pale appearance (Hall 2007: 54–63; Krahe & Meid 1969: 138; Watkins 2011: s.v. *albho-*). Compare Latin *albus* and Ancient Greek *ἀλφός* (*alphós*); related formations include Old High German *albiz*, likewise derived from the Indo-European ‘white’ word (Krahe & Meid 1969: 138, 174; Mallory & Adams 1997: 641). The reconstruction of an initial laryngeal is uncertain: **h₂elb^hós* has traditionally been reconstructed, while **h₄elb^hós* was proposed partly to accommodate Hittite  (*al-pa-aš* /*alpaš*/); alternatively, the Hittite word may reflect o-grade **h₂olb^h-ó-s*, so the Hittite evidence does not require **h₄* (de Vaan 2008: s.v. *albus*; Kloekhorst 2008: 169; Woodhouse 2012: 226–27). The older comparison with Sanskrit *ऋषु* (*ṛbhú*) is formally possible but semantically much less persuasive and need not be assumed for the Germanic word (Hall 2007: 55).

Declension

Case	Singular	Plural
Nom.	albiz	albīz
Acc.	albĭ	albinz
Gen.	albīz	albijô
Dat.	albī	albimaz
Inst.	albī	albimiz
Voc.	albi	albīz

Descendants

***albi** (Proto-West Germanic)

 ***alf** (Old Dutch)

alf (Middle Dutch)

alf (Dutch)

***albi** (Proto-West Germanic)

ief, ælf, ylf (Old English)

elf, elfe, helpe (Middle English)

elf (English)

elf (Scots)

***albi** (Proto-West Germanic)

 ***alf, *elf** (Old Frisian)

alve (West Frisian)

***albi** (Proto-West Germanic)

alb, alp (Old High German)

Alb, Alp (German)

***albi** (Proto-West Germanic)

alf (Old Saxon)

alf (Middle Low German)

alfr, álf (Old Norse)

elver, alf (Danish)

auf, oaf (English)

álvur (Faroese)

álfur (Icelandic)

alv, elv (Norwegian Bokmål)

alv, elv, alg (Norwegian Nynorsk)

alfr, álf (Old Norse)

ælf, ælva (Old Swedish)

älva, alf, alv (Swedish)

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