

***albī** Runic: 𐌰𐌶𐌿𐌺 | Pronunciation: /'al.βi:/

noun · feminine · ī/jō-stem

Meanings

river, stream; especially the river Elbe

Etymology

Probably from a substantivized feminine adjective, pre-Germanic **alb^h-ih₂-* or **alb^h-yeh₂-*, traditionally interpreted as ‘the white one’, possibly derived from Proto-Indo-European **alb^hós* (Bichlmeier & Blažek 2014: 23; Kroonen 2013: 20). Compare Latin *albus* and Ancient Greek ἀλφός (*alphós*); the river name was borrowed as Latin *Albis* and Ancient Greek Ἄλβις (*Álbis*) (Orel 2003: 13). The derivation from ‘white’ remains uncertain, however. Bichlmeier (2015) alternatively proposes a possible derivation of the base from **h₂elh₂-* with a suffixal element **-b^h-* (< **-b^hh₂-o-*, < PIE root **b^heh₂-*) and interprets the name as ‘the meandering one’, an analysis compatible with the Elbe’s original course.

Declension

Case	Singular	Plural
Nom.	albī	albijōz
Acc.	albijō	albijōz
Gen.	albijōz	albijō
Dat.	albijōi	albijōmaz
Inst.	albijō	albijōmiz
Voc.	albī	albijōz

Descendants

***albī** (Proto-West Germanic)

Ælf (Old English)

***albī** (Proto-West Germanic)

 ***Elba, Elva** (Old Dutch)

Elve (Middle Dutch)

***albī** (Proto-West Germanic)

Elba (Old High German)

Elbe (Middle High German)

Elbe (German)

elfr (Old Norse)

elvur, elv (Faroese)

elfur, elfa (Icelandic)

elv, alv, ålv, olv, ølv (Norwegian Nynorsk)

elfr (Old Norse)

ælf, ælv (Old Danish)

elv (Danish)

elv (Norwegian Bokmål)

elfr (Old Norse)

ælf (Old Swedish)

älv, älf (Swedish)

Albia, Albis (Latin)

Ἄλβις (Álbis) (Ancient Greek)

***olba** (Proto-Slavic)

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