

*aldijō barnō

Runic: ᚦ ᚠᚱᚱᚲ ᚷᚰ ᚷᚦ ᚱᚱᚰᚰ

Pronunciation: /,al.di.jōː ˈbar.noː/

noun phrase

Meanings

“children of men”; mankind; humankind; a poetic collective expression for human beings generally

Etymology

From *aldijō (genitive plural of *aldiz) + *barnō (nominative plural of *barnq), literally “children of men”. The expression is continued by Old English *elda bearn*/*ylða bearn*, Old Saxon *eldibarn*, and Old Norse *alda bǫrn*, and is therefore securely reconstructible at least for Proto-Northwest Germanic; its occurrence in both North and West Germanic poetic diction makes inheritance from a common formula more economical than later interdialectal diffusion, although its existence in Proto-Germanic cannot be demonstrated (Cathey 2002: 65; Klaeber 2008: 11–12, xxiii; Neckel 1914: *Völuspá* 20).

Descendants

*aldijō barnu (Proto-West Germanic)

ielda bearn, ylðo bearn (Old English)

eldibarn (Old Saxon)

alda bǫrn (Old Norse)

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Words mentioned in this entry

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