

***alu** Runic: ᚦᚦᚢ Pronunciation: /'ɑ.lu/

formula word

Meanings

a protective or strengthening ritual formula, probably with sense ‘I help, strengthen, give power, protect’

Etymology

Uncertain. Probably an Early Proto-Norse first-person singular verbal form related to **alaną*, ultimately from Proto-Indo-European **h₂el-*; compare Latin *alō* (Imer & Søvstø 2023: 123–25; Mees 2023b: 187–89; Schulte 2023: 5–14). Imer and Søvstø interpret runic *alu* as ‘I help, strengthen, give power, protect’, while Schulte more cautiously classifies it as an apotropaic one-word formula of uncertain meaning. Mees likewise favors a semantic development ‘nourish’ > ‘strengthen’ > ‘protect’.

Descendants

ᚦᚦᚢ (**alu**) (Proto-Norse)

ᚦᚦᚢ (**alu**, possibly **ælu**) (Pre-Old English)

South Germanic (early Alemannic): ᚦᚦᚢ (**alu**)

[View on Wiktionary](#)

Related Words

Words mentioned in this entry

*alana verb