

***ansuz** Runic: 𐌺𐌰𐌽𐌰𐌶 Pronunciation: /'an.suz/

noun · masculine · u-stem

Meanings

1. deity, god
2. name of the rune 𐌺 (a)

Etymology

From Proto-Indo-European **h₂éms-u-s* ~ **h₂ms-éw-s*, a proterokinetic masculine *u*-stem traditionally derived from **h₂ems-/*h₂ens-* (Kloekhorst 2008: 319–20, 327–28; Kroonen 2013: 30; Rix et al. 2001: 269). Cognate with Hittite 𐎧𐎠𐎶𐎵 (𐎧𐎠𐎶𐎵) (*ḫa-aš-šu-uš* /*ḫaššuš*/) and Proto-Indo-Iranian **Hásuš*; compare Sanskrit असुर (*ásura*), a **-ro-* derivative of the same *u*-stem (Ginevra 2024: 183, 187; Kroonen 2013: 30). On the traditional analysis, the semantic development was probably ‘offspring, one begotten’ > ‘king, lord’ > ‘god’, consistent with Anatolian derivatives of **h₂ems-* belonging to the semantic field of birth and descent (Kloekhorst 2008: 319–20, 327–28; Mallory & Adams 1997: 330). Alternatively, Pinault (2019b: 295–96) connects **ansuz* with Hittite 𐎧𐎠𐎶𐎵 (𐎧𐎠𐎶𐎵) (*ḫa-aš-šu-uš* /*ḫaššuš*/), but derives it from a separate PIE root *h₂ens-*, rather than from **h₂ems-/*h₂ens-*.

Declension

Case	Singular	Plural
Nom.	ansuz	ansiwiz
Acc.	ansų	ansunz
Gen.	ansauz	ansiwô
Dat.	ansiwī	ansumaz
Inst.	ansū	ansumiz
Voc.	ansu	ansiwiz

Descendants

***ansu** (Proto-West Germanic)

ōs (Old English)

ans (Old High German)

ās, ōs (Old Saxon)

*𐱃𐰃𐰆𐰇 (***asur**) (Proto-Norse)

𐰆𐰪𐰸𐰚𐰍𐰤𐰶 (**asugasdir**), **𐰆𐰪𐰸𐰚𐰍𐰤𐰶𐰠𐰢𐰵** (**asugisalar**) (Proto-Norse)

*𐱃𐰆𐰚𐰜 (***asur**) (Proto-Norse)

áss (Old Norse)

ásur (Faroese)

ås (Norwegian Bokmål)

ås (Norwegian Nynorsk)

ås (Swedish)

*𐱦𐳚𐰆𐰪 (***asur**) (Proto-Norse)

áss (Old Norse)

ás (Icelandic)

as (Danish)

*𐱦𐳚𐰆𐰪 (***asur**) (Proto-Norse)

áss (Old Norse)

ás (Icelandic)

as (Swedish)

aasa (Finnish)

*𐌰𐌺𐌸𐌸𐌺 (***ansus**) (Gothic)

Ansis (Latin)

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