

***asjō**

Runic: ᚠ ᚷ ᚹ ᚺ

Pronunciation: /'as.jũ:/

noun · feminine · ōn-stem

Meanings

1. forge, smithing furnace; hearth
2. soapstone, especially as used around a hearth or forge

Etymology

Likely from pre-Germanic **h₂eh₁s-yéh₂*, a relational/appurtenance formation in **-ih₂/*-yéh₂* to Proto-Indo-European **h₂eh₁s-*. Harðarson's proposed zero-grade derivation **h₂h₁s-iyéh₂-* 'connected with ashes' encounters a potential difficulty under Schmidt's Law (Buyaner 2026: 149 n. 34); Neri (2017: 299–300) instead derives the form from full-grade *h₂eh₁s-iyéh₂-* with laryngeal loss by Wetter's Law (the printed *h₁eh₂s-* in the section heading and opening sentence is apparently a transposition error for *h₂eh₁s-*). Cognate at the root level with Hittite 𐎶𐎵𐎶𐎶 (𐎶𐎵𐎶𐎶- (*hāšš-*), Sanskrit आस (𑖀𑖦𑖫-), Latin *āreō* (< *Proto-Italic* **āzēō*), and the related **-eh₂* formations Hittite 𐎶𐎵𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶 (𐎶𐎵𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶- (*ha-aš-ša-/hašša-/*) and Latin *āra* (de Vaan 2008: s.vv. *āra*, *āreō*, *assus*; Kloekhorst 2008: 318–19, 322–23; Melchert 2014: 258–59). Alternatively, Kroonen (2013: 38) reconstructs **asjōn-* primarily as 'soapstone' and regards its connection with **askō* as uncertain, explaining the fire-related meanings from soapstone's use around hearths.

Declension

Case	Singular	Plural
Nom.	asjō	asjōniz
Acc.	asjōnų	asjōnunz
Gen.	asjōniz	asjōnô
Dat.	asjōni	asjōmaz
Inst.	asjōnē	asjōmiz
Voc.	asjō	asjōniz

Descendants

essa (Old High German)
| **esse** (Middle High German)
| **Esse** (German)

esja (Old Norse)
| **esse** (Danish)

esja (Old Norse)
| **æsia** (Old Swedish)
| **ässja** (Swedish)

***āšō** (Proto-Samic)

***ahjo** (Proto-Finnic)

[View on Wiktionary](#).

Related Words

Words mentioned in this entry

*askō *noun*