

***apala** Runic: ᚱᚰᚱᚱᚱ Pronunciation: /'a.θa.lǣ/

noun · neuter · a-stem

Meanings

1. nature, disposition; inherent character
2. lineage, stock; nobility

Etymology

An old Proto-Germanic noun with the semantic core ‘lineage, inherited characteristic’; compare Old Norse *aðal* and Old High German *adal* (Heidermanns 1993: 107–09; Kroonen 2013: 40). Proto-Germanic **ōpala* is a *vrddhi* derivative of **apala*, connecting ‘lineage, inherited nature’ with ‘inherited property’ (Faltings 2010: 111; Kroonen 2013: 395). The Proto-Indo-European etymology is uncertain. Szemerényi's (1952: 46–50) derivation from Proto-Indo-European **at-alo-*, from **at(i)* + **al-* (modernized as **h₂et-olo-*, from **h₂et-* + **h₂el-*) seems too semantically vague, and given the related **ōpala*, this would require an unusual lengthened grade of a prefix (Lloyd & Springer 1988: s.v. *adal*¹). Proposed cognates Tocharian A *ātäl* and Ancient Greek *ἄταλός* (*atalós*) are formally and semantically unlikely (Kroonen 2013: 40; Lloyd & Springer 1988: s.v. *adal*¹). Seebold (2017: 980) includes German reflex *Adel* among Common Germanic words lacking a plausible extra-Germanic etymology.

Declension

Case	Singular	Plural
Nom.	aþalaḡ	aþalō
Acc.	aþalaḡ	aþalō
Gen.	aþalas, aþalis	aþalô
Dat.	aþalai	aþalamaz
Inst.	aþalō	aþalamiz
Voc.	aþalaḡ	aþalō

Descendants

***aþal** (Proto-West Germanic)

 ***athal** (Old Dutch)

adel (Middle Dutch)

adel (Dutch)

adel (Afrikaans)

***aþal** (Proto-West Germanic)

 ***athel**, ***ethel** (Old Frisian)

Oadel (Saterland Frisian)

adel (West Frisian)

***aþal** (Proto-West Germanic)

adal (Old High German)

adel (Middle High German)

 אַדל (**adl**) (Yiddish)

***aþal** (Proto-West Germanic)

adal (Old High German)

adel (Middle High German)

Adel (German)

aadel (Estonian)

***aþal** (Proto-West Germanic)

 ***athal** (Old Saxon)

adel, **adele**, **addel** (Middle Low German)

Adel (Low German)

adel (Norwegian)

***aþal** (Proto-West Germanic)

***athal** (Old Saxon)

adel, adele, addel (Middle Low German)

adel (Swedish)

aateli (Finnish)

aðal (Old Norse)

aðal (Faroese)

aðal (Icelandic)

aþal (Old Swedish)

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Related Words

Words mentioned in this entry

***ōpaḷa** noun

Entries that mention this word

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***aþulija** noun

***aþulijaz** adjective

***aþulingaz** noun