

***bat-** Runic: 𐌲𐌿𐌸- Pronunciation: /'bat/

stem

Meanings

1. good, favorable, beneficial
2. benefit, advantage; improvement

Etymology

From Proto-Indo-European *bʰód-*, an o-grade form of root **bʰed-* ('to improve, make better'). It is a lexical stem mainly reflected in the suppletive comparative adverb/adjective **batiz* 'better' and in secondary nominal and verbal derivatives. The reconstruction of an independent positive adjective ***bataz* ('good') or a neuter s-stem ***bataz* 'benefit' is uncertain and probably unnecessary; the evidence is better explained by assuming a bound stem **bat-* to which various derivational suffixes were attached (Lloyd & Springer 1988-2014).

The comparative **batiz* reflects **bat-* + the comparative suffix **-iz*. West Germanic adverbial forms such as Old High German *baz* and Old Saxon *bat(t)* are best explained from early loss of the comparative ending in short-stemmed **batiz*, producing West Germanic **bat* (as compared to the expected **bati-*), with later dialectal differences depending on the chronology of i-umlaut and analogical leveling.

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