

***helmô** Runic: 𐌺𐌿𐌿𐌺𐌾 Pronunciation: /'xel.mɔː/

noun · masculine · an-stem

Meanings

1. handle, especially for steering a boat: helm, tiller
2. rudder

Etymology

Usually thought to be from Proto-Indo-European **kél-mō*, earlier **kél-m̥*, from the root **kel-* (‘to cover’); equivalent to **helaną* + **-mô*. Cognate with Sanskrit शर्मन् (*śárman*) (*śárman*, ‘shelter, protection’). However, the semantic connection is weak.

An alternative theory by Kroonen links **halmaz* and **helmaz* (‘haulm, straw, stalk, cane’), from Proto-Indo-European **kélh₂-m* (on)-, assuming the original meaning of **helmô* was closer to “cane” and referred just to the shaft of a handle implement.

Per Vasmer related to Russian чёлн (*čoln*) < Proto-Slavic **čьlnъ*, Ancient Greek σκαλμός (*skalmós*) (*skalmós*).

Note the presence of **(s)-* in the related synonyms.

Declension

Case	Singular	Plural
Nom.	helmô	helmaniz
Acc.	helmanu	helmanunz
Gen.	hilminiz	helmanô
Dat.	hilmini	helmammaz
Inst.	hilminē	helmammiz
Voc.	helmô	helmaniz

Descendants

*helmō (Proto-West Germanic)

 *helma (Old Dutch)

 helm (Middle Dutch)

 helm (Dutch)

*helmō (Proto-West Germanic)

 helma (Old English)

 halm (Middle English)

 helm (English)

*helmō (Proto-West Germanic)

 halme (Old High German)

 halme, halm, helm (Middle High German)

 Helm (German)

*helmō (Proto-West Germanic)

 *helma (Old Saxon)

 helm, holm (Middle Low German)

 Holm (German)

hjalmvōlr (Old Norse)

hjalmurvōlr (Old Norse)

hjalmarvōlr (Old Norse)

hjalmunvōlr (Old Norse)

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