

***lēpa** Runic: ᚗᚗᚗᚗ Pronunciation: /'lɛ:.θã/

noun · neuter · a-stem

Meanings

possession, ownership

Etymology

Disputed. Suggested as cognate with Ancient Greek *λάτρον* (*látron*, ‘payment’) and Latin *latrō* (‘mercenary’), from Proto-Indo-European **leh₂t-* (‘to grant; to possess’), but the vowel correspondences are irregular. Perhaps alternatively from **leh₁-t-*, extended from **leh₁-* (‘to let’) (whence also Proto-Germanic **lētana*, from a different extension **leh₁-d-*).

Beekes rejects an Indo-European etymology entirely and considers the purported Greek cognate to be from Pre-Greek, whereas the Latin is borrowed from Greek.

Declension

Case	Singular	Plural
Nom.	lēpa	lēpō
Acc.	lēpa	lēpō
Gen.	lēpas, lēpis	lēpō
Dat.	lēpai	lēpamaz
Inst.	lēpō	lēpamiz
Voc.	lēpa	lēpō

Descendants

- *lāþ (Proto-West Germanic)
 - lǣþ (Old English)
 - leð, ledh, *lath, leth (Middle English)
 - lathe (English)

- lǫð (Old Norse)
 - lǫð (Icelandic)

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