

**\*mēkijaz** Runic: ᚱᚴᚲᚢᚱᚰᚢᚾᚰᚢᚿ Pronunciation: /'mɛ:.ki.jaz/

noun · masculine · ja-stem

## Meanings

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sword

## Etymology

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Of unclear origin.

"To cut" hypotheses reconstruct Proto-Indo-European *\*mēǵeyos* ('cutter, sword'), from some root as *\*(s)meh<sub>2</sub>-* ('to beckon') (> *\*meh<sub>2</sub>y-* > *\*meyh<sub>2</sub>* > *\*mē(h<sub>2</sub>)-* > *\*mēǵ-*), *\*(s)meh<sub>1</sub>-* ('to cut'), *\*(s)mēy(H)-* ('to cut, hew') and such. However, none of these are standard sound changes in the development of Proto-Germanic, and as such cannot be taken seriously as historical developments in the history of this word; contravention of the standard pillar of historical linguistics — the exceptionlessness of sound change — should only be done as a last resort.

Orel prefers taking the Germanic as a borrowing from some North Caucasian language, as represented by Proto-Northeast Caucasian *\*miq<sup>c</sup>V* ('chisel, hoe, knife'), whence Avar *\*maq<sup>c</sup>ala*. See the potentially-related Proto-Slavic *\*měčь* ('sword') for more theories.

Some reconstruct *\*mēǵ/g-yos* and connect it with Proto-Germanic *\*mekaną* ('to support') as "secondary functional o-grade".<sup>[2]</sup>

## Declension

| Case  | Singular       | Plural           |
|-------|----------------|------------------|
| Nom.  | mēkijaz        | mēkijōz, mēkijōs |
| Acc.  | mēkija         | mēkijanz         |
| Gen.  | mēkijas, mēkīs | mēkijō           |
| Dat.  | mēkijai        | mēkijamaz        |
| Inst. | mēkijō         | mēkijamiz        |
| Voc.  | mēkī           | mēkijōz, mēkijōs |

## Descendants

\***māki** (Proto-West Germanic)

**māki** (Old Saxon)

\***mākī** (Proto-West Germanic)

**mæce, mēce** (Old English)

**meche, mache, mæche** (Middle English)

𐀓𐀓 < | 𐀓𐀓 (**makija**) (Proto-Norse)

**mækir** (Old Norse)

**mæki** (Faroese)

**mækir** (Icelandic)

**mækje, mækjer** (Norwegian Nynorsk)

𐌚𐌚𐌚 &lt; | 𐌚𐌚 (makija) (Proto-Norse)

**mækir** (Old Norse)

**meeke** (Middle English)

**meak** (English)

mekēis (mēkeis) (Gothic)

**mycha** (Crimean Gothic)

\***mëekka** (Proto-Finnic)

\***тъць** (Proto-Slavic)

\***mešь** (Proto-Slavic)

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