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hi·er·o·phant  (hī ər-ə-fănt', hī rə-, hī-ěr ə-fənt)

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n.

1. An ancient Greek priest who interpreted sacred mysteries, especially the priest of the Eleusinian mysteries.
2. An interpreter of sacred mysteries or arcane knowledge.
3. One who explains or makes a commentary.

[Late Latin *hierophanta*, from Greek *hierophantēs* : *hieros*, holy; see **eis-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#) + *-phantēs*, one who shows (from *phainein*, *phan-*, to show; see **bhā-**¹ [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#)).]

hi'er·o·phan *tic adj.*

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

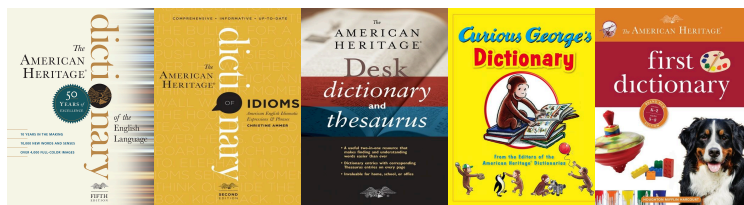
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[Indo-European Roots](#)

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The Indo-European appendix covers nearly half of the Indo-European roots that have left their mark on English words. A more complete treatment of Indo-European roots and the English words derived from them is available in our [Dictionary of Indo-European Roots](#).

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