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cha·ris·ma  (kə-rīz mə)

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n. pl. cha·ris·ma·ta (-mə-tə)

1.

a. A rare personal quality attributed to leaders who arouse fervent popular devotion and enthusiasm.

b. Personal magnetism or charm: *a television news program famed for the charisma of its anchors.*

2. also **char·ism** (kār ˈɪzəm) *Christianity* An extraordinary power, such as the ability to perform miracles, granted by the Holy Spirit.

[Greek *kharisma*, divine favor, from *kharizesthai*, to favor, from *kharis*, favor; see **gher-**² [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

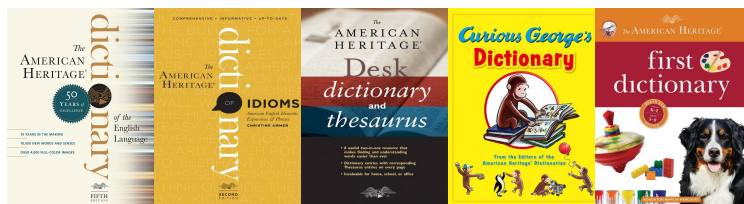
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[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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