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HERITAGE®

dictionary

of the  
English  
Language

  


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*n.*

An astronomical text tabulating information on the apparent positions and motions of the sun, moon, planets, and stars, especially such a text written in Arabic or Persian in the eighth or ninth century.

[Arabic and Persian *zīj* (Persian, from Arabic), from Persian *zīg*, mason's rule, threads that serve as a guide in embroidering, *zij*, from Middle Persian *jīg*, \**zīg*, thread, from Old Iranian \**ǰyaka-*, thread, diminutive of \**ǰyā-*, bowstring, tendon; akin to Avestan *ǰyā-*; see **g<sup>w</sup>hī-** 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](#)

[Semitic Roots](#)

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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