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tal·is·man  (tāl ˈis-mən, -īz-)

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n. pl. tal·is·mans

1. An object marked with magic signs and believed to confer on its bearer supernatural powers or protection.
2. Something that apparently has magic power.

[Ultimately (probably via French *talisman*) from alteration of Arabic *ṭilasmāt*, pl. of *ṭilasm*, talisman, from Late Greek *telesma*, from Greek *telein*, to fulfill, consecrate, endow with magic power, from *telos*, result; see **k^wel-¹** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

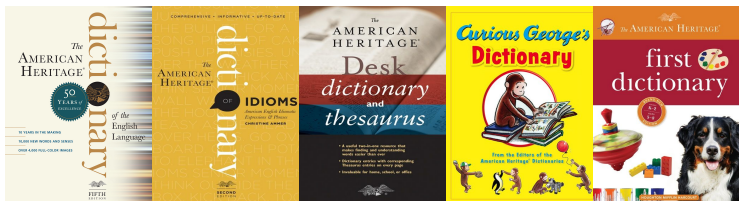
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[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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