

On the Etymology of germ. *Seele* ‘soul’

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I shall discuss the hitherto suggested etymologies of germ. *Seele*. The connection with germ. *See* and other connections will be refuted. Instead, the roots of *Seele* seem to lie in the domain of ghosts and departed souls. This hypothesis is not totally new, but it will be justified with new reasons. Here a look at the cultural and religious history of soul conceptions will bring new insights. Generally, it will be emphasized that in any etymological work it is necessary to transgress the boundaries of pure linguistics and to strive for a transdisciplinary approach.