WHAT’S IN A NAME? -- “ZEYNEP”, “ZAYNAB”,  "زينب" ـ، "زينب"
THE ORIGIN, THE MEANING AND THE VARIANTS OF
A COMMON FEMALE FORENAME USED IN TURKEY AND
ELSEWHERE

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ABSTRACT: Forenames, identifying individuals have their meanings, origins and variants which are shared by different people and cultures around the world. Upon investigation, the female forename “Zeynep”, “Zaynab”, "زينب", one of the most common names in Turkey, is found to have its semitic or even Greek, Latin and Sanscrit roots affecting its various meanings. The Semitic root “z+y+n” (ornament) shared by Phoenician, Hebrew and Arabic languages gives the name the meaning of "the father’s ornament". On the other hand the alternative "Zenobia" also comes from two Greek words, i.e. “zeno” (Zeus, god) and “bio” (life). The Sanscrit root “div-” deriving from Greek as Latin "Deus" (God) comes from Sanscrit root "div-" (sky). So this paper involving the common forename “Zeynep” in Turkish also enjoying many versions and different meanings in various languages sheds insight into the "study of forenames" (onomastics) by focusing on its etymological, historical and sociological features. We hope it will satisfy the curiosity of millions of people in Turkey and abroad bearing this name or its variants.

Key words: study of forenames, onomastics, köken, etimoloji, değişken

I. THE STUDY OF FORENAMES
Like all words in the dictionary, a person’s name also has a meaning (behindthename, 2016). Although everyone has a forename, most people do not have an idea of what it means, and very few give it much thought of its origin. (ibid). The study of names called “onomastics” is a specific field which deals with linguistics, history, anthropology, psychology, sociology, philology and much more (Hajdu, 2016). The word “onomastics” originates from the Greek ὄνοματικός (onomastikós), which translates to "of or belonging to naming", from ὄνομα (ónoma) meaning "name" (ibid). Its lower branch, “anthroponomastics” covering the area of personal names falls within the category of anthropologists, historians, political geographers and genealogists (Schneider, 2009). The most common reasons to explore the field of personal names in onomastics is for genealogical research and for choosing a name for a child (Nigro, 2015). Because for most people choosing a name for a newborn is an activity of utmost significance mostly for the identity of a separate entity who will ultimately develop a unique personality. (Bryner, 2010). Names have often had different forms before they settled down to an accepted spellings and pronunciation. Essentially, corruption of speech, regional accents,
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translation, and conscientious name changes cause evolution over time (Nigro, 2015). It has long been recognized that any name can have a variety of spellings in the course of its history. Some of these are predictable, reflecting differences of pronunciation between one region and another, or between one century and another, others are the result of ignorance, misunderstanding or even deliberate reorientation (ibid).

A forename (also known as a first name, given-name, personal name or Christian name in the West, Rufname in German, prénom or surnom in French) is part of a name or title by which an individual is known by others (givenname, 2016). A name identifying a specific person differentiates him/her from other members of a group, such as a family or clan, with whom that person shares a common surname (Behindthename, 2016). The term “given-name” refers to the fact that the name usually is bestowed upon or given to a child by its parents at or near the time of birth (givenname, 2016).

The order "given-name followed by one’s father's family name - mother’s family name” is commonly used in Spanish-speaking countries to acknowledge the families of both parents as in the example “José María Álvarez del Manzano y López del Hierro” (Spanish.naming.customs, 2016).

In Arabic speaking countries one’s name is traditionally tied to one’s father (as part of the patronymic practice) with either “bin” or “binti” (reduced to B. and Bt./Bte./Bint.) for males and females respectively, i.e. “Zainab bint Ali ibni Abidalib” (Notzon, 2003).

The variations of a particular name in different parts of the world occur due to several reasons i.e. to transcription errors, misspelling, phonetic spelling or other misinterpretation by clerks of court, by deliberate or accidental misrepresentation by informants (Stackxchange, 2016). Some forenames are used as diminutives, i.e. Margaret, Maggie, Meg, Peggy or Alexander, Alex, Alec, Sandy, or nicknames/pet names or middle names as first names (ibid). Although there may be some natural regional variations of one particular name, one can easily recognize them for belonging to the same origin usually by the consonants they possess.

Children’s given-name or names are usually chosen by their parents soon after birth. Parents may choose a name for their children because of its meaning (DiProperzio, 2016). This may be a personal or familial meaning, such as giving a child the name of an admired person, or it may be an example of nominative determinism, in which case the parents give the child a name which they believe will be lucky or favourable for the child (givenname, 2016).

Given-names most often derive from the following categories (ibid):

1. Aspirational personal traits (external and internal). For example, the name Clement means "merciful"; other names in English include Faith, Prudence, and August.
2. Occupations, for example George means "earth-worker", i.e., "farmer".
3. Circumstances of birth, for example Thomas meaning "twin" or the Latin name Quintus, which was traditionally given to the fifth male child.
4. Objects, for example Peter means "rock" and Edgar means "rich spear".
5. Physical characteristics, for example Calvin means "bald".
6. Variations on another name, especially to change the sex of the name (Pauline, Georgia) or to translate from another language (for instance, the names Francis or Francisco that come from the name Francisus meaning "Frank or Frenchman").
7. Surnames, for example Winston, Harrison, and Ross. Such names can honour other branches of a family, where the surname would not otherwise be passed down (e.g., the mother's maiden surname).
8. Places, for example Brittany and Lorraine.
9. Time of birth, for example day of the week, as in Kofi Annan, whose given-name means "born on Friday", or the holiday on which one was born, for example, the name Natalie meaning "[born on] Christmas day" in Latin.
10. Combination of the above, for example the Armenian name Sirvart means "love rose".

In many cultures, given-names are reused, especially to commemorate ancestors or those who are particularly admired, resulting in a limited repertoire of names that sometimes vary by orthography (Mabuza, 2016).

In the West or in some Christian countries Biblical and saints' names are most common. In Ethiopia, some religion-based names are idealized such as in Haile Selassie, "power of the Trinity" and Haile Miriam, "power of Mary" (Mockler, 1984). However the name Jesus is considered taboo or sacrilegious in some parts of the Christian world (excepting the cognate Joshua) (givenname, 2016). In some Spanish speaking countries, the name Jesus is considered a normal given-name (ibid). Similarly, the name Mary, now popular among
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Christians, particularly Roman Catholics, was considered too holy for secular use until about the 12th century (firstnamehistory, 2016).

Education, ethnicity, religion, class and political ideology affect parents’ choice of names (Wells, 2013). In the United States, popular names tend to be chosen by parents with more education (Larson, 2011). Politically conservative parents choose common and traditional names, while politically liberal parents choose the names of literary characters or relatively obscure cultural figures (ibid).

Devout members of religious groups often choose names from their own scriptures or cultural heritage. For example, Hindu parents may name their daughters mostly Saanvi after the goddess; and the list contains such very common names as Aadya, Aaruna, Vihavan, Anushka, Anika and Surabhi (Pitarau, 2013). As for the Jewish parents, they would rather name their boys mostly Yishag, after one of the earliest ancestral figures synonymous with Yisrael, among others, i.e. Yisroel, Yosef, Dawid, Yismael, Ya'qob, 'Adam, Hawwah, Ayub, Avraham, Ariel. They also name their daughters Freida, Golda, Miriam, Naomi, Netanya, Rachel, Rebecca, Ruth, Sarah and Sarai (chabad, 2016). Muslim parents on their part, call their boys mostly Mohammed after the Prophet or his family and friends i.e. Omar, Ali, Abdullah, Hanzza, Hassan, Hussain, Ismail; and they also call their daughters, starting with the individual members of the prophet’s family, Amina, Aishah, Fatima and Zaynab to follow suit (arabic.name, 2016).

According to recent census statistics, the most common male forenames in Turkey are Mehmet, Mustafa, Ahmet, Ali, Hasan, Hüseyin, İbrahim, İsmail, Osman, Yusuf etc. for the obvious Islamic heritage of the people (Turkish.name, 2016). In 2013, Mernis, the Civil Registration office released its data in regard to the most common given-names in Turkey (ibid). According to the listing which is topped by Zeynep and followed by others, i.e. Fatma, Ayse, Emine, Hatice, Elif, Ecrin, Yağmur, Azra, Zehra, Ela, Belinay, Nehir, Şerife, Zehra, Sultan. So the members of Prophet Muhammad’s direct family (ibid) are the most popular female names. Among these names Hatice, Ayse and Zeynep are his respective wives’ names; Emine (Amine) is his mother’s name and Fatma his daughter’s name. Zeynep is the most common female name in the Prophet’s immediate circle as two of his consecutive wives, a daughter and a granddaughter are all named Zeynep. So one could easily assume that it is one of his most favorite female forenames, if not the most (Zaynab, 2016).

II. THE ARABIC ROOT “ZYN”

The female forename “Zeynep” very common in Turkey derives from the two Semitic/Arabic roots “Z+Y+N” (zaın) (ornament) + (ab) (آب) (father) literally meaning “the ornament of her father” (quranicnames, 2016). The root “zyn” originally bearing the meaning “ornament” synonymous with “beauty, grace, excellence” is also used as an adjective synonymously with “beautiful, comely, handsome, graceful, charming, lovely, fair, radiant, good-looking and fine” (ibid). Althought more men have this name than women, it is unisex and there are women using this name as well. The Arabic name Zain was not in use in pre-Islamic Arabia and was not part of the Qur’anic text either as a figure (britishbabynames, 2016). However the Muslim tradition giving names with “good meaning” on children, Zain was found to be fitting this criteria (ibid). The reference of “Zain” in the Qur’an was used both as a verb and a noun. The most striking example is in verse 37.6: “We have adorned the lowest heaven with the beauty of the planets.” (Sahih, 2016). The root “zyn” provides many derivatives for Arabic male and female names with spelling variations (quranicnames, 2016). Most of them are listed below in alphabetical order in their latinized transliteration and with their literal meanings in English. Examples are taken from the website “Quranic Names” (ibid).

“azyan” (adornments, decorations, beautiful things),
“mazyuunah” (adorned, beautified),
“mezyan” (good looking, beautiful),
“mizyaan” (good looking, beautiful)
“mizyan” (good looking, beautiful)
“muzayanah” (beautified, adorned),
“muzayan” (beautified, adorned),
“muzayynah” (beautified, adorned),
“muzayyn” (beautifier, adorer),
“tazayyn” (the act of beautifying and adorning; beautification, adorning),
“tazeen” (to beautify, to adorn),
“zaeanaah” (beautiful, radiant)
“Zaeane” (beautiful and radiant),
“Zaeian” (beautiful and radiant),
“zaen” (beautiful, radiant)
“zaene” (beautiful, radiant)
“Zaeyan” (beautiful and radiant),
“Zaeyane” (beautiful and radiant),
“zahaane” (beautiful, radiant)
“zahanah” (beautiful, radiant)
“Zaiaan” (beautiful and radiant),
“zaaiane” (beautiful, radiant)
“zaiane” (beautiful, radiant)
“zaini” (beautiful, radiant)
“zaina” (beauty, adornment, excellence)
“zaine” (beautiful, radiant)
“zana” (beautiful, radiant)
“zane” (beautiful, radiant)
“zayaanaa” (adorn, beautifier)
“Zayaane” (beautiful and radiant),
“zayaaneha” (beautiful, radiant)
“zayan” (beautiful, radiant),
“zayanaha” (adorn, beautifier)
“Zayeane” (beautiful and radiant),
“zayn” (beauty, adornment, grace, excellence)
“zayna” (beautiful, radiant)
“zaynah” (beautiful, radiant)
“zayne” (beautiful, radiant)
“Zayyaane” (beautiful and radiant),
“Zayyan” (beautiful, radiant)
“zayyanah” (beautiful, radiant)
“Zayyane” (beautiful and radiant),
“zayyanah” (beautiful, radiant)
“Zeyeane” (beautiful and radiant),
“zayn” (beauty, adornment)
“zayn” (beauty, adornment)
“zaynhe” (beautiful, radiant)
“zayne” (beautiful, radiant)
“Zaiaan” (beautiful and radiant),
“zaiaane” (beautiful, radiant)
“zaiane” (beautiful, radiant)
“zain” (beautiful, radiant)
“zeaan” (adornment, decoration)
“zeanne” (adornment, decoration)
“zeeana” (beautification, adornment)
“zein” (beautiful, radiant)
“zeinah” (beauty, adornment),
“zeine” (beautiful, radiant)
“zene” (beautiful, radiant)
“zeneh” (beautiful, radiant)
“zeyan” (adornment, decoration)
“zeyna” (beautiful, radiant)
“zeynah” (beautiful, radiant)
“Zeyyan” (beautiful and radiant),
“Zeyyanah” (beautiful, radiant)
“Zianne” (adornment, decoration)
“zieman” (beauty, adornment),
“ziunah” (beauty, adornment),
“zina” (beautiful, radiant)
“zine” (beautiful, radiant)
“zineh” (beautiful, radiant)
“zinet” (beauty, adornment)
“ziyan” (adornment, decoration)
“ziyan” (adornment, decoration)
“ziyam” (beauty, adornment),
“ziyneh” (beautiful, radiant)
“ziyneh” (beautiful, radiant)
“zyaan” (adornment, decoration)
“zyaane” (adornment, decoration)
“zyan” (adornment, decoration)
“zyane” (adornment, decoration),
“zynah” (beauty, adornment),
“zyneh” (beauty, adornment).

2.1. THE ARABIC FORMS OF “ZEYNEP/ZAYNAB” (زينب)

The Turkish form “Zeynep” is one of the derivative forms of the root “zain” (behindthename, 2016) having many variants in Arabic among which are “Zainab, Zeinab, Zaynab, Zinab, Zeineb”, all sharing the same meaning i.e. “her father’s adornment” (Wadid ki Zeenat in Urdu). (ibid). The root “zain” forms a compound name in “zain” (adornment) + “abah” (father). Although this form is not encountered in the Qur’an as such, it was often used by Arabs especially during the beginning of the Islamic era, and was much favored by Prophet Muhammad. Two of his wives had this as their first names: Zaynab bint Jahsh c. 590 – 641 and Zaynab bint Khuzayma (c. 595 - 626) (IdealMuslimah, 2016). The prophet’s eldest daughter (Zainab bint Muhammad, the daughter of Khadijah bint Khuwaylid and Muhammad, 598—629 AD) and his granddaughter “Zaynab bint Ali, daughter of Ali ibn Abi Talib, the sister of Husayn ibn Ali” (Sayyeda Zaynab bint ‘Ali) (زينب بنت علي (626 -681/682 AD) were all named Zainab (Zaynab.bint.Ali, 2016). When the Prophet’s daughter Fatima bore a daughter to Ali, his father in law Muhammad (pbuh) named him “Zaynab”. With a firm belief that one’s name would affect his/her personality, he sought Angel Gabriel’s advice for a special name for his granddaughter and this special name was given to him for its unique meaning. (Mufid, 1981).

Zaynab, being such a special name exists in Arabic in several spelling and pronunciation forms all having the same meaning (Zaynab, 2016):

2.2 THE HEBREW VERSION

In Hebrew the root “z-y-n” means “God’s gracious gift” (semitic roots, 2016). The Hebrew name Yohanan (יוחנן) deriving from “Yehohanan” (יהוחנן) “graced by Yahweh” later turned into Greek “Iōannēs” (Ιωάννης) to Latinized versions of Iohannes and John and Zane (Ioannes, 2016). Hebrew root “zayin” shares the same meaning as its Arabic-semitic sister “zain” (Suffixes in Hebrew, 2016). However the root is not connected at all with the classical Hebrew and Semitic root “z-n-y” meaning “to fornicate” (Stackexchange, 2016). The root meaning “good” in its masculine form and “beautiful” in its feminine form appear in such variants as Zain, Zayne, Zane and Naize. Zane has become today a very popular American boy’s name (socialvocabulary, 2016).

2.3 THE GREEK VERSION

The common old Greek female forename “Zenobia”, “Zenubia” or “Zenovia” “Ζηνοβία” (life sustained by Zeus) (Zenobia, 2016) resembles and is associated by some references with the Turkish “Zeynep” or its Arabic origin for its consonant structure of “z+n+b”. The Greek wording of the name is split into two parts, i.e. “zeno” (the prefix form of mythological God “Zeus” (Iulia, Julia) and “bios” (life) (life sustained by Zeus) (ibid). The Greek word “zenais” (Ζεναίς) further way of referring to the mythological god Zeus deriving from Sanscrit “dv-” root (nominative singular dyūṣ with vṛddhi) turning to Latin as “Deus” (Dyeus, 2016). So “Zenubia” can be interpreted as nothing less than “one having divine power”, “life sustained by Zeus” or “god incarnate” So “zeno”+ “bia” combination in Greek is an alternative to the Arabic version of Zaynab meaning “a father-exalting ornament”.

Zenobia, Zenubia, Zenovia, Zeinia, Zennubia.
The name was made famous by the beautiful but ruthless queen Queen Zenobia (Greek: Ζηνοβία/ Zênobia, Palmyrene: ﺪزیبیا (Btzby)) (ibid). The third century empress of Palmyra (Syria) who lived between 240 and 275 AD ruled the eastern Roman Empire and led a famous but unsuccessful revolt against the mother Empire (ibid). Zenobia (Iulia/Julia Aurella Zenobia) had both Aramaic and Arab ancestries (ibid). After her, many variants of her forename emerged in Palmyra among which were Zabeida, Zabdila, Zabbai and Zabda (Hillers, 2005). The name was later transferred to Greece and Italy and became popular as “Zenobio(s)” (masculine) and “Zenobia” (feminine). Victor Duruy (1883) believes that the queen used the Greek form of her name to please her Greek subjects (ibid). The Arabic and Turkish female names “Zeynubiye, Zabuniye, Naynubiye, Zannuba, Zennube” seem to have originated from this source.

2.4 THE LATIN VERSION

The Latin forename Zane (or Zani or Ziant) which is the Venetian form of Gianni, an informal way of saying Giovanni is the Italian cognate of John or Hebrew Jon (behindthename, 2016). Thus the Hebrew root “z-y-n” (God’s gracious gift) turning into Greek “Iōannēs” (Ἰωάννης) and to Latin Iohannes became John and Giovanni respectively (ibid). According to Benicoeur (2003), “One variation of typical of Venetian names is the substitution of initial Z for a soft G or G: “Zusto” for “Giusto”, “Zanino” from “Giannino”, “Zanetto” and “Zanetta” were also in use then in Europe (Britishbabynames, 2016). These latter two were part of Britain use from the 19th century (ibid). The American novelist Pearl Zane Grey (1872-1939) made his name famous and inspired her readers to give it to their children (Zane Grey, 2016).

III. THE VARIANTS OF FORENAME “ZEYNEP/ZAYNAB” USED IN DIFFERENT LANGUAGES

3.1 IN ISLAMIC CULTURES (Behindthename 2016)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Arabic</th>
<th>English</th>
<th>Persian</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ZAINA</td>
<td>Morocco</td>
<td>ZAINAB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ZAINAB</td>
<td>Arabic, Pakistan, Iraq, Lebanon</td>
<td>ZAYNAB Arabic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ZAYNAB</td>
<td>Arabic</td>
<td>ZEINAB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ZEINAB</td>
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<tr>
<td>ZEYNEP</td>
<td>Turkish</td>
<td>ZINEB</td>
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<td>ZINEB</td>
<td>Urdu, Persian</td>
<td>XENOBIYA</td>
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<tr>
<td>XENOBIYA</td>
<td>English, German, Italian, Spanish</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>XENIA</td>
<td>English, German, Italian, Romanian</td>
<td>XENOBIA</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

3.2 IN THE WEST (ibid)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Italian</th>
<th>Italian</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GIANNI</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>ROSINA</td>
<td>English, German, Italian, Spanish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XENIA</td>
<td>English, German, Italian, Romanian</td>
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<tr>
<td>XENOBIYA</td>
<td>English</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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Zaynab, also known as “Sayyeda Zaynab bint ‘Ali” or “Bibi Zainab bint Imam Ali” was one of the daughters of the Rashid Caliph and the first Shia Imam, ‘Ali and his first wife Fatimah. Muhammad was her maternal grandfather, and thus she was a member of ahl al-bayt (the household of Muhammad). Zaynab is therefore most revered not only for her admirable characteristics and actions, but also for her membership in and continuation of the biological line of Muhammad. Zaynab marrying Abdullah ibn Jafar had three sons and two daughters of him. As Zaynab protected her nephew Ali Ibn Al Husayn’s life though her sacrifice and heroism, she became known as the “Hero of Karbala”.

4.6 ZAYNAB BINT AL-HARITH (died 628) (Zeynab,bint.Al.Harith, 2016)

Zaynab was a Jewish woman who lived in Khaybar, Arabia in the early seventh century. As an irony of faith, this woman whose name the Prophet loved so much tried to assassinate him. When Muhammad took control of Khaybar in June 628 during a battle Zaynab’s husband was killed and she wanted to take revenge on him by killing him. When Zeynab was asked to cook roast lamb for Mohammed, she poisoned the meat then offered it to him to eat. But the prophet took only a morsel of it without swallowing. His companion Bishr b. al-Bara ate it and died. Mohammed instead of condemning Zaynab to death, he demanded an explanation. Zaynab told him he wanted to put him to test in that if he would eat and die, then he was no prophet, but if he saw through it then he was surely a man of God. This explanation satisfied Mohammed, but on his deathbed four years later he told Aisha and Anas ibn Malik that he was feeling the effects of Zaynab’s poison (Wecker, 2016).

4.7 ZAYNAB AN-NAFZĀWIYYAH (died 1071) (Zaynab.an-Nafzawiyyah, 2016)

Zaynab an-Nafzāwiyyah (زينب النفزاوية) was an influential woman in the Almoravid Berber empire which gained control of Morocco, Algeria, and parts of Spain. The 12th-century Kitab al-Istibsar, says this about her: "In her time there was none more beautiful or intelligent or witty. She was married to Yusuf, who built Marrakech for her.” After being a concubine of Yusuf ibn Ali, she married the amir of Aghmat, Luqūt al-Maghrawi, amir of Aghmat. When Luqūt was killed in a battle Zaynab inherited all his wealth and wanted to become the ruler of the whole country. She then married the Almoravid leader, Abu-Bakr Ibn-Umar and offered him all her treasure of gold and silver, pearls and rubies in exchange of constructing Marrakech. After some time Abu Bakr divorced Zaynab, and she married his deputy Yusuf ibn Tashfin.

4.8 MORE RECENT CELEBRITIES CALLED “ZEYNEP/ZAYNAB” OR ITS VARIANTS

4.8.1 ZEYNEP (zeynep, 2016)

- **Zeynep Acet** (born 1995); Turkish Paralympian sprinter
- **Zeynep Ahunbay** (born 1946), Turkish scholar of antiquities
- **Zeynep Değirmencioglu** (born 1954), Turkish actress
- **Zeynep Çelik-Butler**, Turkish-American Professor of Electrical Engineering
- **Zeynep Ergun**, Turkish academic
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Zeynep Fadıllıoğlu, (born 1955), Turkish architect
Zeynep Karahan Uslu (born 1969), Turkish politician and public relations specialist
Zeynep Korkmaz (born 1922), Turkish scholar
Zeynep Murat (born 1983), Turkish Taekwondo practitioner
Zeynep Sevde Paksu (born 1983), Turkish writer and publisher
Zeynep Sever (born 1977), Turkish actress and former beauty pageant winner
Zeynep Üçbaşaran, Turkish pianist
Zeynep Karahan Uslu (born 1969), Turkish politician and public relations specialist
Farah Zeynep Abdullah (born 1989), Iraqi-Turkish actress
Viktoriya Zeynep Güneş (born 1998), Ukrainian / Turkish swimmer

4.8.2 ZAINAB, ZEINAB (zaynab, 2016)

Zeinab Badawi, Sudanese-British television and radio journalist for the BBC (born 1959)
Zainab Masood, a fictional character in the British TV soap opera EastEnders played by comedienne Nina Wadia; she made her first appearance on 16 July 2007

4.8.3 ZANE, ZAIN (famousbirthdays, 2016)

Pearl Zane Grey (1872–1939), the American author inspired her readers to give her name to their children.
Zane Radcliffe (b. 1969), British writer.
Zane Lowe (b. 1973), New Zealand radio presenter, Zane Lamprey (b. 1976), American comedian and actor.
Zane Beadles (b. 1986), American football player
Zain “Zayn” Malik (b. 1993), a British singer.
Zane Huett (b. 1997), American actor.

4.8.4 ZENOBIA (babynamewizard, 2016)

Zenobia Camprubi, Spanish-American writer
Zenobia Powell Perry, American composer
Alice Zenobia Richmond (b. 2005), daughter of actress/comedian Tina Fey
Zenobia Forster, dark and queenly character in “The Blithedale Romance” by Nathaniel Hawthorne
Zenobia "Zeena" Frome, whining hypochondriac wife in "Ethan Frome"
Zenobia (Mrs George Collins), character in G.Bernard Shaw's play "Getting Married" (1908)
Queen Zenobia, a cruise ship in the game "Resident Evil: Revelations"
Psyche Zenobia, narrator of Edgar Allan Poe's short story "A Predicament"
Zuri Zenobia Ross, character on the Disney Channel show "Jessie"
Zenobia, character in the Conan the Barbarian series
Zenobia, elephant in a 1939 comedy starring Oliver Hardy
Zenobia, character in "The Vampire Chronicles" by Anne Rice

V. THE NAME-LETTER EFFECT OF “ZEYNEP/ZAYNAB”

Some people believe that a person’s name predicts his/her personality, and those individuals with the same forename share similar personality traits as others (Mabuza, 2016). Despite this contradictory argument there is proof that a child’s name has a deep influence on his/her self-concept along with the messages received (Behindthename, 2016). It has been established through research that certain names are considered desirable and have positive feelings associated with them whereas others are looked upon as being undesirable for carrying negative associations. Therefore people unconsciously, but effectively, send positive and negative messages to
the bearer of a certain name in line with the connotation of the name (ibid). The name-letter effect refers to a person’s tendency to favor the wording in their name using this as a measure of implicit self-esteem (Moss, 2016). It is assumed that the name-letter effect allegedly causes people attract things or feelings toward oneself. (ibid). Thus people with such a distinguished name as Zeynep are justifiably proud of the meaning of their names and strive to live up to its message by excepting also others to respect them for their names.


| Meaning: | The ornament of her father |
| Origin: | Arabic |
| Gender: | Girl |
| Name analysis: | Dreamer, practical, fearless, skillful, high ability of persuasion |
| Color: | Blue |
| Number of letters: | 6 |
| Letter Analysis: | Z : Witty |
| | A : Bright |
| | I : Witty |
| | N : Protective |
| | A : Bright |
| | B : Thoughtful |
| Numerology: | Z : 26, A : 11, N : 14, B : 2 Total = 53 |
| Numerology Analysis: | Creative, Emotional, Hardworking, Vivacious, Logical |
| Natural ability: | The Urban Dictionary states that there is a general belief that individuals bearing the name “Zenobia” have the ability to love creatures that sting (urbanzenobia, 2016). |

VII. THE MENTION OF ZEYNEPS’/ZAYNABS’ CHARM IN RECORD

7.1 ZENOPIA – Zenobia, the queen of the Palmyrene Empire who revolted against the Roman Empire after her husband died. Expelling the Roman prefect she expanded her territory by conquering Egypt, however was overcome by forces sent from Rome. The Augustan History praises her beauty in these words: Her face was dark and her eyes were black and her powers were almost divine and her beauty incredible. Many thought that she had pearls in place of her teeth. Her voice was clear like that of a man (Zenobia, 2016).

7.2 ZAYNAB BINT JAHSH – Muhammad’s wife Aisha: “Zaynab was my equal in beauty and in the Prophet’s love for her.” (Zaynab.bint.Jahsh, 2016)

7.3 ZAYNAB BINT ALI – The prophet’s grand-daughter was adorable not only for her admirable characteristics and actions but also for her continuation of the biological line of Muhammad. Like other members of her family she was a great figure of sacrifice, strength, and piety in Islam like other members of her family.

7.4 ZAYNAB AN-NAFZÁWIYYAH -- 12th-century Kitab al-Istibsar: “There was no more beautiful or intelligent or witty a woman than her.”

7.5 ZEYNEP IN URBAN DICTIONARY -- “I have known a modern real-life fairytale.” Her name is Zeynep and I wish she were mine.” Her smile is as radiant as the sunshine, and her eyes sparkle happiness. I can’t help but stare her amazing smile. I’ve never known, or seen, anyone who turns as many heads as she does. (urban.zeynep, 2016)

VIII. ACROSTIC POEMS ABOUT “ZEYNEP” / “ZAYNAB”

8.1 FOUR ACROSTIC POEMS IN ENGLISH (whatnamemeaning, 2016)

Zippy, filled with energy
Arresting, capturing the attention of all
Indefatigable, a tireless spirit
Nice, a sweet soul
Arresting, capturing the attention of all
Beautiful, a soothing sight
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Z is for Zippy, brimming with energy
A is for Articulate, you have the gift of expression
I is for Incredible, you raise the bar for greatness
N is for Noble, an honorable heart
A is for Articulate, you have the gift of expression
B is for Brave, you have a stout heart
---

Z is for Zest, you're so full of life
A is for Attributes, you have too many to list
I is for Inspirational, your effect on others
N is for Natural, your beauty is to me
A is for Attributes, you have too many to list
B is for Beauty, yours astounds us all
---

Z is for Zeal, you're so enthusiastic
A is for Always, forever we'll be friends
I is for Interest, you've surely captured mine
N is for Nifty, you're talented at what you do
A is for Always, forever we'll be friends
B is for Bountiful, you're so rich to me
---

7.1 **FOUR ACROSTIC POEMS IN TURKISH** (akrostiş, 2016)

Zikir ederdim durmadan güzel ismini
Eski bir defter, kırık bir kalem
Yalnızlık en büyük varlığım‌dı
Nerden, nasıl girdin hayatıma meçhul
Ezikiliğini yaşadım senelerce mutsuzluğun
Pes ettim sonunda hayatına girdiğinde…
(Barış Yıldırım)
---

Zahmetsiz ekmek bile çiğnenmez hayatta
Ellerim havada gözlerim ise sürekli kapıda
Yazmıştır belki mektup diye umut adına
Nefesi mi tutmuş bekliyorum gözlerim postacıda
Er geç geleceksin seni umutla bekleyen sevgiline
Parça parça olmuş hastetten yüreğim gözlerim sıradan
(Pınar Tüfenkçi)
---

Zaman zaman dolar gözlerim...
Ey aşk sendendir bu elemim.
Yine çaresiz yine yapayalnız
Ne yaparsam olmaz sinmез içime
En sonunda kurtuldum geldim dizine
Peri kadar güzel sevdiğim...
---

Zanetme ki unutur bu kalp seni
Ellerinden tutamasam da
Yanız olmayacaksın bu hayatta
Ne söylesen söyle
Ebedi yele kadar yine de seveceğim
Pes etmeyeceğim bu hayata
---

**IX. CONCLUSION**

The Turkish name Zeynep with its consonants “z+y+n” and its final attachment “ab” joins the double concepts of “adornment” and “father” in Arabic making the name mean “the adornment of her father”. Another version of the name, the Greek Zenobia having the resemblance of “z+n+b” gives yet a different etymology and
meaning: *Zeno* is another word for “Zeus” and “bio” means “life” giving the compound-name bring the sense another dimension such as “divine energy”, “life sustained by Zeus” or “god incarnate”. There are many theories and evidences proving that Phoenicians, Hebrews, Arabs (all three Semitic people) and Greeks exchanged so much in the Middle East in early history that also shaped the languages and cultures inherited in our modern world. Onomastics (the study of forenames) sheds light to many mysteries hidden in our forenames without knowing their roots, meanings and stories.

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