

CROOKED-LEFT

Skrt <i>śráyati</i> ‘lean, cling’, Avest <i>sray-</i> ‘lean’	
Gk <i>κλῖνω</i> ‘cause to lean’	Gk <i>λαῖός</i> ‘left’
Lat <i>clīvus</i> ‘slope’, <i>clīvis</i> ‘inauspicious’	Lat <i>laevus</i> ‘left’
Goth <i>hleidumen</i> ‘left’, OHG <i>hlinēn</i> ‘lean’, OEng <i>hlinian</i> ‘lean’	
ELith <i>šliēti</i> ‘lean against’, Lith <i>kleišti</i> ‘bend’, <i>kleĩvas</i> , <i>šleĩvas</i> ‘crooked-legged’, Latv <i>kleivs</i> ‘crooked-legged’, sliēt ‘lean against’	Lith <i>išlaivóti</i> ‘bend, make crooked’
Slav <i>*klonitiĭ</i> , <i>*slonitiĭ</i> ‘lean, bend, incline’	Slav <i>*lěvŭ</i> ‘left’
Mlr <i>clē</i> ‘left, defective, bad’, Welsh <i>cledd</i> ‘left’	
Toch A <i>klāw</i> , B <i>klāy</i> ‘fall’	Toch <i>laiwo</i> ‘lassitude’ (?)

Forms are from (Pokorny 1959, 652; Mallory & Adams 1997, 348, 349; Miller 1976, 52). Pokorny explicitly suggests that IE terms for ‘left’ developed out of the concept ‘crooked’, hence there is no semantic difficulty in connecting the two sets. The correspondence between crookedness, evilness, and left is a widely spread feature of IE cultures (see Mallory & Adams 1997, 348-349). In a word, this is a very solid juxtaposition. The words for ‘lean, crooked’ are wider in distribution, which suggests greater antiquity. The words for ‘left’ are notably different from the words for ‘lean, crooked’ in their vocalism: *a* ~ *e*. In the words for ‘lean’ *e*-vocalism is accompanied by the presence of a (palato-)velar. A laryngeal interpretation of IE **laiwos* would be **IHeiwos* or **leHiwos*. Comparison with IE **kleiwos* allows one to reconstruct **H₂leiwos* ‘left’, with a laryngeal metathesis or simply the permeability of a resonant for the coloring effect of a laryngeal. The final etymon is **kH₂lei-*.