

# WHAT'S IN A NAME? -- "ZEYNEP", "ZAYNAB", "زينب" THE ORIGIN, THE MEANING AND THE VARIANTS OF A COMMON FEMALE FORENAME USED IN TURKEY AND ELSEWHERE

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## ÖZET

Ortak kişi adları, anlamları, kökenleri ve değişkenleri ile dünyanın her yerindeki toplumlar tarafından paylaşılmaktadır. Geleneksel olarak Türk toplumunda en yaygın olarak kullanıldığı tespit edilen kadın isimlerinden "Zeynep", Arapça'daki geleneksel "Zaynab" (زينب) biçiminden dilimize uyarlanmıştır. Bu ismin anlamı araştırıldığında kökeninin Arapça, İbranice ve Fenike dillerinin ait olduğu Sami dil grubundaki "z+y+n" (süs, ziynet) harf grubundan, benzer bir başka biçimi olan "Zenobia"nın ise Hint Avrupa dil grubundan olan Latince'deki "deus" (tanrı) < Sansk. "div-" (tanrı) türemesinde olduğu gibi Grekçe'deki "zeno" < "zeus" (tanrı) kökeninden türediğini görmekteyiz. "Özeladbilim" (onomastik) konusuna giren etimolojik, tarihsel ve sosyolojik yöntemlerle yapılan bu araştırmanın Türkiye'de ve dünyanın başka bölgelerinde bu kişi adına ve değişkenlerine sahip olan milyonlarca kişinin ve genel olarak isimlerin anlamları ve kökenlerine ilgi duyanlara hitap edeceğini umuyoruz.

**Anahtar sözcükler:** özeladbilim, onomastik, köken, etimoloji, değişken

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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, root, variant

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## 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 to 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 ὀνομαστικός (*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,

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 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 binti 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 (Stackexchange, 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 *Franciscus* 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

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 other 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, Aarna, Vihaan, Anushka, Anika and Surabhi* (Pitarau, 2013). As for the Jewish parents, they would rather name their boys mostly *Yisshaq*, after one of the earliest ancestral figures synonymous with *Yisrael*, among others, i.e. *Iyob, Yosef, Dawid, Yismael, Ya'qob, 'Adam, Hawwah, Ayyub, 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, Hamza, 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, Ayşe, 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, Ayşe* 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" (zain (زين) (ornament) + (ab) (أب) (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). Although 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." *إِنَّا زَيْنَّا السَّمَاءَ الدُّنْيَا بِزِينَةِ الْكَوَاكِبِ* "Innaa **zaiyannas** samaaaa 'ad dunyaa bizeenatinil kawaakib" (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),
- "mazyunah" (adorned, beautified),
- "mezyan" (good looking, beautiful),
- "mizyaan" (good looking, beautiful)
- "mizyan" (good looking, beautiful)
- "muzayanah" (beautified, adorned),
- "muzayyan" (beautified, adorned),
- "muzayyanah" (beautified, adorned),
- "muzayyin" (beautifier, adorer),
- "tazayyun" (the act of beautifying and adorning; beautification, adorning),
- "tazeen" (to beautify, to adorn),
- "zaeanah" (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),  
"zaiaane" (beautiful, radiant)  
"zaiane" (beautiful, radiant)  
"zain" (beautiful, radiant)  
"zaina" (beauty, adornment, excellence)  
"zaine" (beautiful, radiant)  
"zana" (beautiful, radiant)  
"zane" (beautiful, radiant)  
"zayaanaa" (adorner, beautifier)  
"Zayaane" (beautiful and radiant),  
"zayaaneh" (beautiful, radiant)  
"zayana" (beautiful, radiant),  
"zayanaa" (adorner, beautifier)  
"Zayeane" (beautiful and radiant),  
"zayn" (beauty, adornment, grace, excellence)  
"zayna" (beautiful, radiant)  
"zaynah" (beautiful, radiant)  
"zayne" (beautiful, radiant)  
"Zayyaane" (beautiful and radiant),  
"Zayyan" (beautifier),  
"zayyanaa" (adorner, beautifier)  
"zayyanah" (beautiful, radiant)  
"Zayyane" (beautiful and radiant),  
"zayyaneh" (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)  
"zeyn" (beautiful, radiant)  
"zeyna" (beautiful, radiant)  
"zeynah" (beauty, adornment),  
"Zeyyan" (beautiful and radiant),  
"zianne" (adornment, decoration)  
"zienah" (beauty, adornment),  
"zinah" (beauty, adornment),  
"zine" (beautiful, radiant),  
"zineh" (beauty, adornment),  
"zinet" (beauty, adornment)  
"ziyaan" (adornment, decoration)  
"ziyan" (adornment, decoration)  
"ziynat" (beauty, adornment),  
"ziyneh" (beautiful, radiant)  
"ziyneh" (beauty, adornment),  
"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, Zayneb, Zeynab, Zinab, Zeineb", all sharing the same meaning i.e. "her father's adornment" (Walid 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):

Zeynebah, Zaynaba, Zeynebah, Zeinaba, Zainaba, Zaynaba, Zinab, Zennub, Zaineb, Zineb, zaynab, zainab, zeinab, zayne, zeynab, zinab, zeinab, Zennube, zaynab, zainab, zeinab, zaynab, zinab, zeinab, zennub, zennuba, Zenobia, Zennuba, Zeinab, Zenubia bat Zaddai; Zeinubia, Zenobia, Zaynubiya.

## 2.2 THE HEBREW VERSION

In Hebrew the root "z-y-n" means "God's gracious gift" (semitic roots, 2016). The Hebrew name Yohanan (יְהוָנָן) deriving from "Yehohanan" (יְהוֹחָנָן) "graced by Yahweh" later turned into Greek "Iōannēs" (Ἰωάννης) to Latinized versions of Iohannes and John and Zane (Ioannes, 2016). Hebrew root "zayin" shares the same meaning as its Arabic-semitic sister "zayn" (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" (Ζηναίς) (Zenais) is another way of referring to the mythological god Zeus deriving from Sanscrit "div-" root (nominative singular dyāus with vrddhi) 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".



The name was made famous by the beautiful but ruthless queen *Queen Zenobia* (Greek: Ζηνοβία/ *Zēnobia*, Palmyrene: ܙܢܒܝܐ (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. The name appearing also as "*Xenobia*" or "*Septimia Zenobia*" is referred to in certain sources as "Bat-Zabbai" (Al-Zabba's daughter) (ibid). Thus its supposed derivation in Arabic emerging as "Zayn-u Ab" (the ornament/beauty of her father) extended to the time of the Islamic prophet when he was surrounded by women of that name. He himself gave this name to both of his own daughter and granddaughter (ibid). Some Greek variants and derivatives of *Zenobia* are as follows (babynamespedia, 2016):

Cenobia, Nobi, Senobe, Zenobe, Zenobi, Zenobya, Zenovia, Senovia, Sinobia, Xenobia, Zeba, Zeeba, Zemaida, Zenaide, Zenda, Zenino, Zenobia, Zenobee, Zenoben, Zena, Zinovia, Zenobiah, Zameah

## 2.4 THE LATIN VERSION

The Latin forename *Zane* (or *Zani* or *Ziani*) 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 Gi: "*Zusto*" for "*Giusto*", "*Zanino*" from "*Gianino*".

## 2.5 THE ENGLISH VERSION

The English surname turned-into-a-forename "*Zain*" or "*Zane*" derives from several sources (Britishbabynames, 2016): It originated in the West Country and descended from the Old English personal name "*Saewine*", made up of the elements "*sæ*" (sea) and "*wine*" (friend) (ibid). The Venetian "*Zane*" was later developed in the West Country as a surname especially in Devon, Cornwall and Dorset by the 14th century, (Benicoeur, 2003). *Matteo Zane*, for example, was the Patriarch of Venice from 1600 to 1605. *Gianni* was used in records, much like *Jack* was used for *John* in Britain (Pemudis, 216). Other forms of *Giovanni*, such as *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)

ZAINA Morocco  
ZAINAB Arabic, Pakistan, Iraq, Lebanon  
ZAYNAB Arabic  
ZEINAB Arabic  
ZEINEB Bosnian  
ZEJNEBA Bosnian  
ZEYNAB Arabic  
ZEYNAB Persian  
ZEYNEB Bosnian  
ZEYNEP Turkish  
ZINEB Urdu, Persian

### 3.2 IN THE WEST (ibid)

GIANNI Italian  
GIOVANNI Italian  
ROSINA English, German, Italian, Spanish  
XENIA English, German, Greek, Italian, Romanian  
XENOBIA English

ZANE English  
ZANETTA Italian  
ZANETTO Italian  
ZELENA English  
ZENAIIDA English, Greek, Spanish  
ZÉNAÏDE French  
ZENO (Ζηνο) Greek  
ZENOB (Ζηνοβ) Greek  
ZENOBIA Italian, Polish, Romanian  
ZENOBIA English, Italian, Polish, Romanian, Greek, Hindi  
ZENOBIO Italian, Greek  
ZENOBIOUS (Ζηνοβιος) Greek  
ZENOVIA Greek  
ZINA Czech, English, Greek, Russian  
ZINAIDA Latvian, Russian  
ZINOVIYA Russian

#### IV. FAMOUS PEOPLE WITH THE NAME "ZEYNEP", "ZAYNAB" (زينب) OR ITS VARIANTS IN HISTORY AND TODAY

##### 4.1 ZENOBIA (240-274?) (Zenobia, 2016)

Zenobia (Julia Aurelia Zenobia) (Greek: Ζηνοβία / *Zēnobia*; Palmyrene: ܙܢܒܝܐ (Btzby - Bet Zabbai) became queen of the Palmyrene Empire in Syria following her husband's death in 267. By 269, Zenobia had expanded her empire, conquering Egypt and expelling the Roman prefect, Tetricus. He had him beheaded after he led an attempt to recapture the territory. She ruled over Egypt until 271, but was finally defeated and taken as a hostage to Rome by Emperor Aurelian (Zenobia, 2016).

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##### 4.2 ZAYNAB BINT JAHSH (c. 590-641) (Zaynab.bint.Jash, 2016)

Zaynab bint Jahsh was Muhammad's cousin and one of his wives. Aisha believed that Zaynab was his second favourite, after herself among all his wives by quoting "Zaynab was as beautiful as myself and the Prophet loved her as much as he loved me." Another of his wives Salama said of Zaynab: "The Messenger of Allah liked her so much, but also argued with her. There was also much conflict between Zaynab and her co-wives. She used to boast to them saying: "You were given in marriage by your families, while I was married (to the Prophet) by Allah from over seven Heavens (Bukhari).

##### 4.3 ZAYNAB BINT KHUZAYMA (born 539) (IdealMuslimah, 2016)

She was the fifth wife of Muhammad. She was known as the mother of the poor (Umm al-Masakin). As a result of her early death, less is known about her than the Prophet's other wives.

##### 4.4 ZAINAB BINT MUHAMMAD (598-629) (Zainab.bint.Muhammad, 2016)

Zaynab bint Muhammad, was the eldest daughter Muhammad from his first wife Khadijah bint Khuwaylid. Zainab married, Abu al-As ibn al-Rabi' and they had two children. Zainab became a Muslim soon after Muhammad first declared himself a prophet. When the Quraysh pressured Abu al-As to divorce Zainab, he said he did not want any other woman, for which he received much praise from the Prophet. Although Abu al-As did not convert to Islam, they continued to live together in Mecca when other Muslims emigrated to Medina.

##### 4.5 ZAYNAB BINT ALI IBN ABI TALIB (زينب بنت علي) (626-681) (Zaynab.bint.Ali, 2016)





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-Nafzawiyah, 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-Maghrāwi, 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



**Zeynep Fadilloğlu**, (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 1989) Turkish-Belgian volleyball player  
**Zeynep Tokuş** (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 DisneyChannel 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 expecting also others to respect them for their names .

## **VI. THE SUPPOSED CHARACTERISTICS OF THOSE BEARING THE NAME ZEYNEP / ZAYNAB AND ITS VARIANTS** (<http://www.meaningofname-baby.com/zainab/>), meaning2016

**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: 11:9, N: 14 A : 1 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 ZENOBIA** – 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-NAFZĀWIYYAH** -- 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

-----  
**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 varlığımı  
Nerden, nasıl girdin hayatıma meçhul  
Ezikliğini yaşadım senelerce mutsuzluğun  
Pes ettim sonunda hayatıma girdiğinde...  
(Barış Yıldırım)

-----  
Zahmetsiz ekme bile çiğnenmez hayatta  
Ellerim havada gözlerim ise sürekli kapıda  
Yazmıştır belki mektup diye umut adına  
Nefesimi tutmuş bekliyorum gözlerim postacıda  
Er geç geleceksin seni umutla bekleyen sevgiline  
Parça parça olmuş hasretten yüreğim gözlerim sırada  
(Pınar Tüfenkçi)

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

**Z**annetme ki unuttur bu kalp seni  
**E**llerinden tutamasam da  
**Y**alnız olmayacaksın bu hayatta  
**N**e söylensen söyle  
**E**bediyete kadar yine de seveceğim  
**P**es etmeyeceğim bu hayata  
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#### **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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